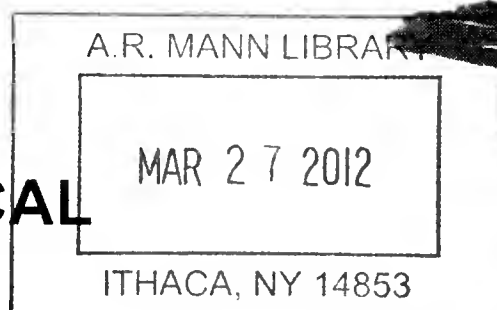


# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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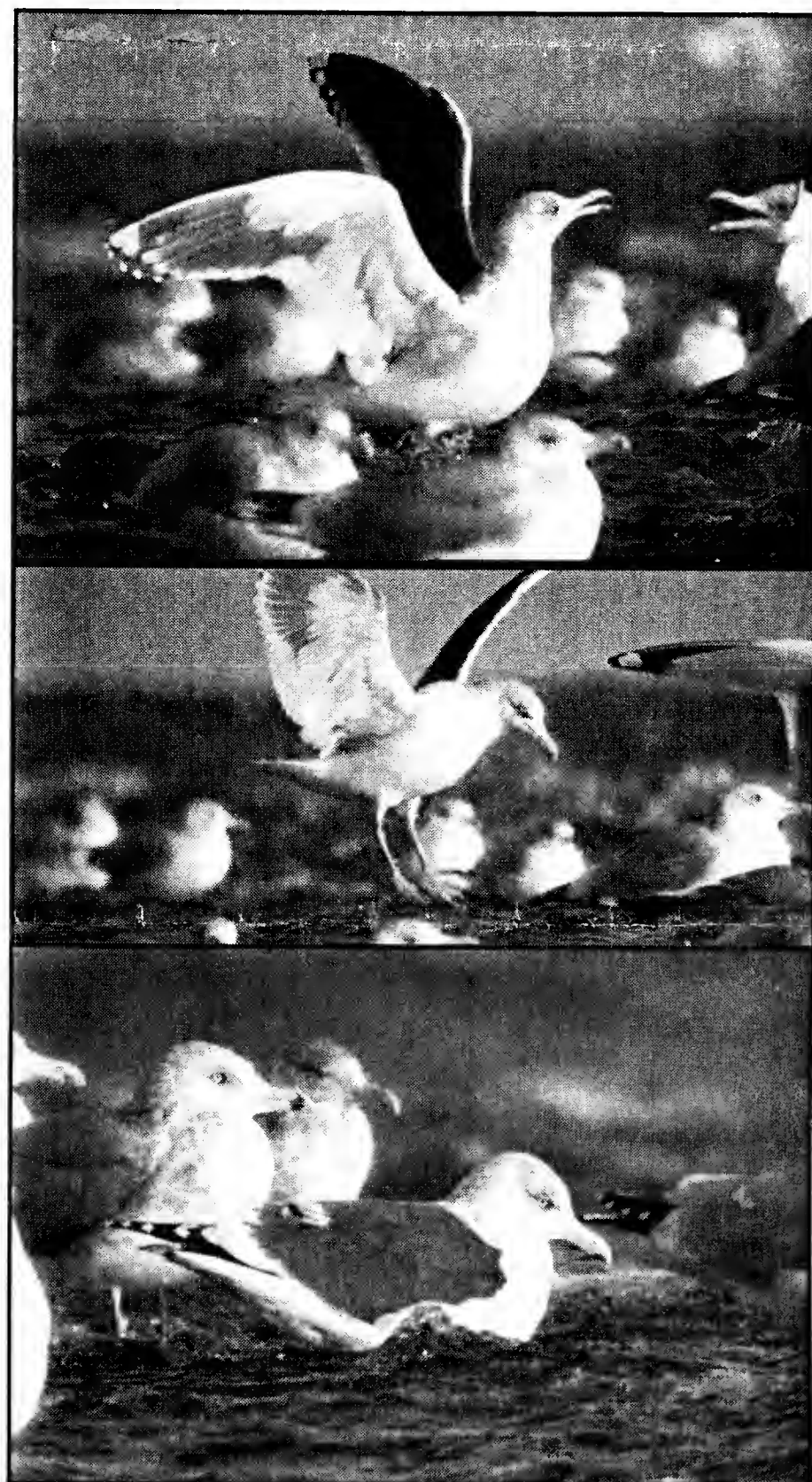
### THE MONTH: December

*Michael DeSha*

According to the National Weather Service, this December "will be long remembered for the lack of winter weather." It was very much different from December 2010's "cold and bleak month for western New York." Temperatures this month were well above average and since there was almost no snow, which continued the similar conditions in November, this fall and early winter was one of the least snowy starts to the winter on record. The average temperature was 35.5 °F, which is 5.4 °F above average, making this month rank as the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest December in the 141 years of record-keeping. The warmth was persistent. Below average temperatures were recorded on only seven days.

Precipitation for the month totaled 3.62 inches at the airport, 0.27 inch below average. Snowfall for the month was only 3.8 inches, 23.6 inches below average, marking the sixth lowest snowfall total for the month of December. For the entire snow season through December 31<sup>st</sup>, the total snowfall of 3.8 inches is 32.4 inches below average and in a tie for the second least amount on record. There was only one day where there was an inch of snow on the ground and the maximum daily snowfall during the month was only 2.4 inches. Snowfall was lacking throughout western New York. Even in the normally snowy snow-belt locations of the Southern Tier, only 6 – 12 inches fell, far below average.

The temperature of Lake Erie at Buffalo fell to 39 °F by the end of the month, 4.0 °F above average for December 31<sup>st</sup>. The lake was as warm as 47 °F for several days at the start of the month and the 47 °F reading on December 5<sup>th</sup> tied for the warmest on record for that date.



Slaty-backed Gull photographed by Joseph Mitchell at Goat Island, Niagara Falls on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |                                          |  |
|----|------------------------------------------|--|
| 1  | <b>The Month</b>                         |  |
|    | <i>Michael DeSha</i>                     |  |
| 4  | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>                |  |
|    | <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> |  |
| 8  | <b>Statisticians' Note - 2011</b>        |  |
|    | <i>Mike Morgante</i>                     |  |
| 10 | <b>Calendar</b>                          |  |

The "lack of winter weather" was appreciated by both birds and the birders, who found a number



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

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of lingering species, including warbler species that are rarely seen in December. Gull watchers were treated to what could only be called "balmy" weather for the month, given what they usually face in sorting through the gulls on the Niagara River.

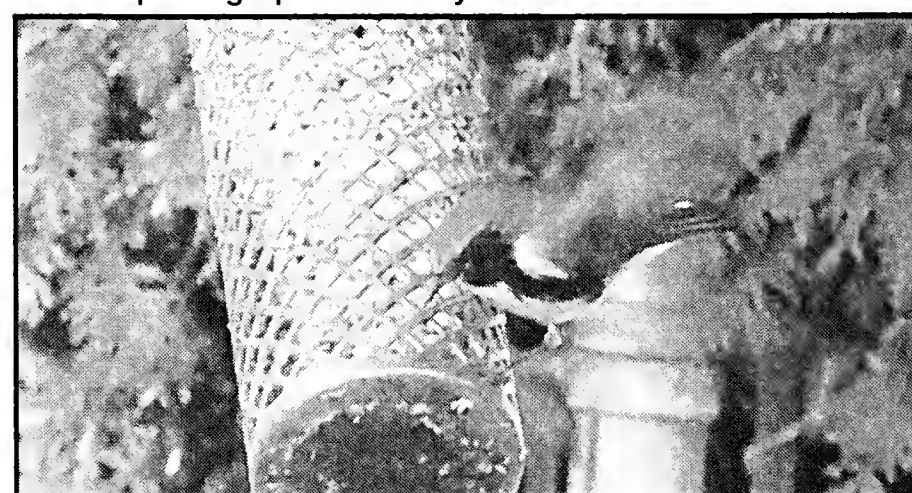
For those that were able to observe them, some interesting warbler species provided the most exciting highlights for the month. During early December, Richard Salembier noted that the Wilson's Warbler, which had shown up in late October, continued to frequent his yard in Williamsville. It stayed until the 7<sup>th</sup>, allowing others ample opportunity for viewing (photo below). This is the first December

record of Wilson's Warbler in the BOS archives.

Perhaps as amazing was the Black-and-White Warbler found and reported by Zebehazy and others on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Spicer Creek WMA on Grand Island. This first December record is also a record late date; the previous record late date was November 19, 1970. Goat Island hosted an Orange-crowned Warbler originally observed by Carlson and observed subsequently by several birders. This is again a first December record, the previous late dates being a record by Skalicky on November 25, 1995 and on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of 1996 at Port Colbourne, Ontario, seen by D'Anna and Potter and Roberson, et al. Then to top off this month's fantastic warbler show, in the waning days of December, Pawlicki and Morien found a Common Yellowthroat at Tonawanda WMA on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (photo below), a fairly uncommon December bird, while on the same days a Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed in Amherst by Cindy Daudelin (photos below). This is another first December record, topping the previous late date sighting of this species on November 25, 1990, by Willie D'Anna et al at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Who



(Top) Wilson's Warbler on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> in Williamsville, (Middle) Common Yellowthroat at Tonawanda WMA on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Black-throated Blue Warbler in Amherst on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. All photographs taken by Jim Pawlicki.

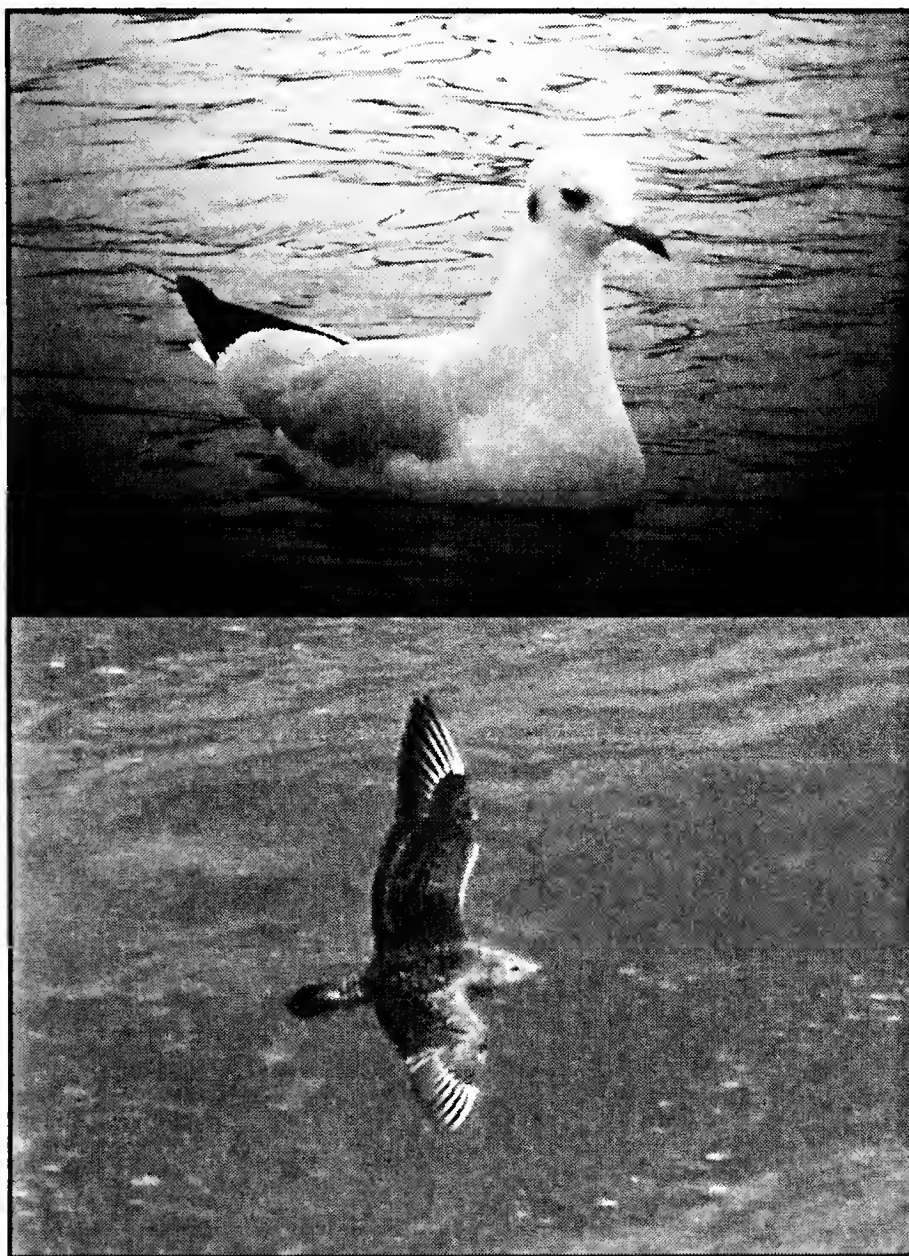


Black-throated Blue Warbler photographed by Cindy Daudelin at a feeder in Amherst on Dec 29<sup>th</sup>.



would have believed there could be such opportunities to view warblers in December in this region? The unusually warm weather was likely a factor.

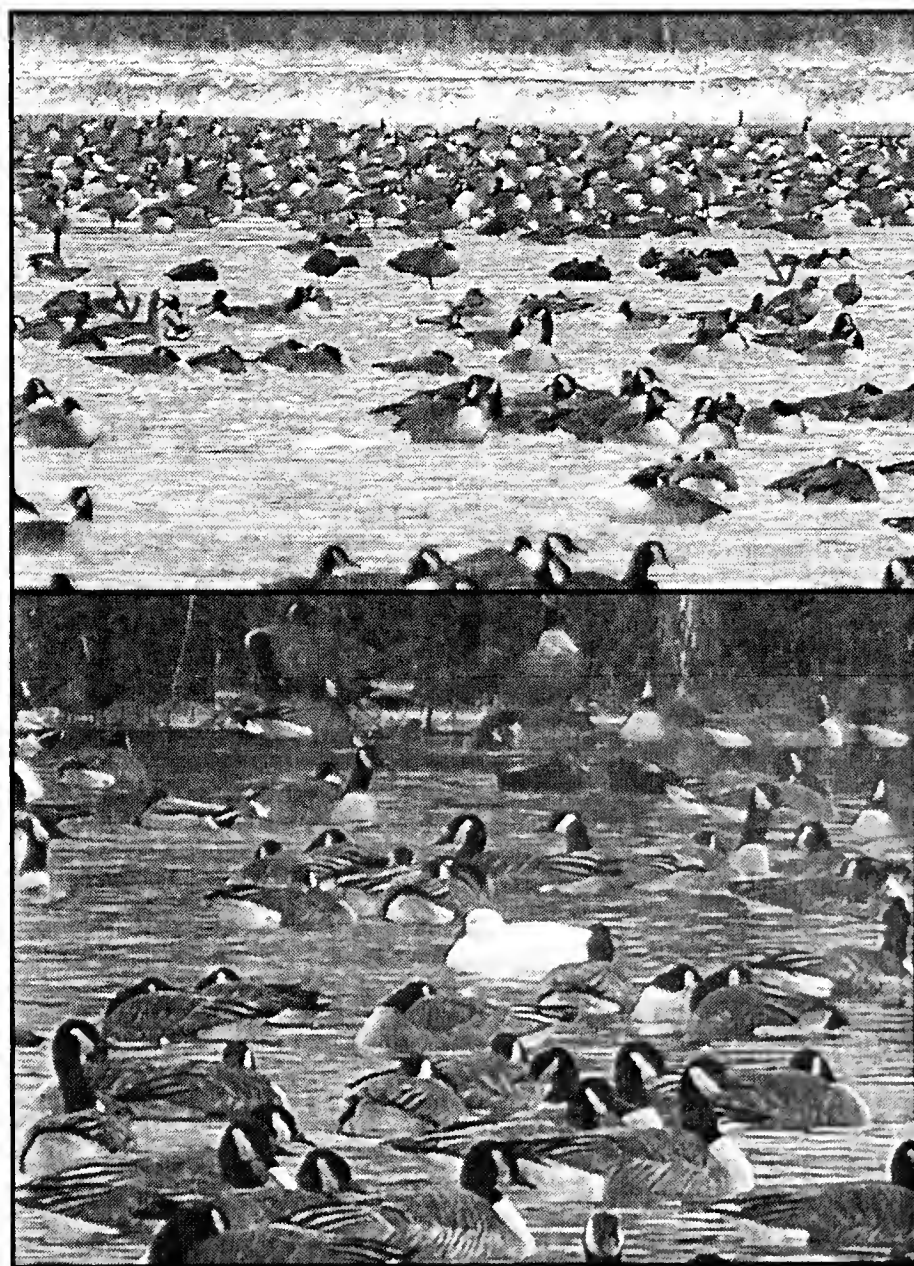
Eleven species of gulls were observed during December by the dedicated gull-watching community. Among these eleven, there were several individuals of rarer species. A Black-headed Gull was observed at Squaw Island in Buffalo between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> (photo below). A Franklin's Gull was noted by Willie D'Anna et al at the Adam Beck Hydro facility on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, while a single California Gull was observed on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Goat Island by the Lynne Landon and DeLeons et al. The rarest of the individuals seen was a Slaty-backed Gull found first at Niagara Falls, Ontario on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (photos on page 4) and again on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the bird was found stateside at Goat Island (photos on first page). Slaty-backed Gull has been making a regular appearance on the Niagara River in the past few years. On the Niagara River at the Sir Adam Beck Hydro Station, a jaeger, accepted only as generic (parasitic/pomarine) and not identified to species level, was observed and photographed on the 4<sup>th</sup> by Carlson (photo below).



(Above) Black-headed Gull photographed by Rick Thomas at Squaw Island in Buffalo on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and (Below) Parasitic or Pomarine Jaeger photographed by Brad Carlson on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

There were excellent waterfowl sightings as well. Pawlicki found two Greater White-fronted Geese at Oakfield on the 29<sup>th</sup> (photo below) and Celeste Morien documented seven at Oak Orchard WMA on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Snow Geese, in flocks of 1 or 2 individuals, were reported throughout the region. Fox and Pawlicki found and documented a Ross's Goose on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (photo below). Fox counted nine Cackling Geese on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment facility. Watson documented 2 Trumpeter Swans on the 1<sup>st</sup> at Oak Orchard; Wojewodski was surprised by a Trumpeter Swan on his property in Holland on the 4<sup>th</sup>, an observation he documented very carefully. Edward Ratajczek and Jay DeCorolisa found one on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Beaver Island State Park. Vicki Rothman, Dave Gordon, and Robert Deleon spotted two at Tonawanda WMA on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Berry reported Redheads at Chautauqua Lake. He observed 349 individuals on the 4<sup>th</sup> and found 250 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Watson found 800 Greater Scaup at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Also on Chautauqua Lake, Berry reported 375 Lesser Scaup on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Lenz observed 350 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Mitchell and D'Anna et al reported up to four Harlequin Ducks at Niagara Falls on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Platt noted a raft of 1000 Bufflehead at Squaw Island on the 26<sup>th</sup>.



(Above and shown with red arrows) Greater White-fronted Geese and (Below) Ross's Goose photographed by Jim Pawlicki in Oakfield on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>.

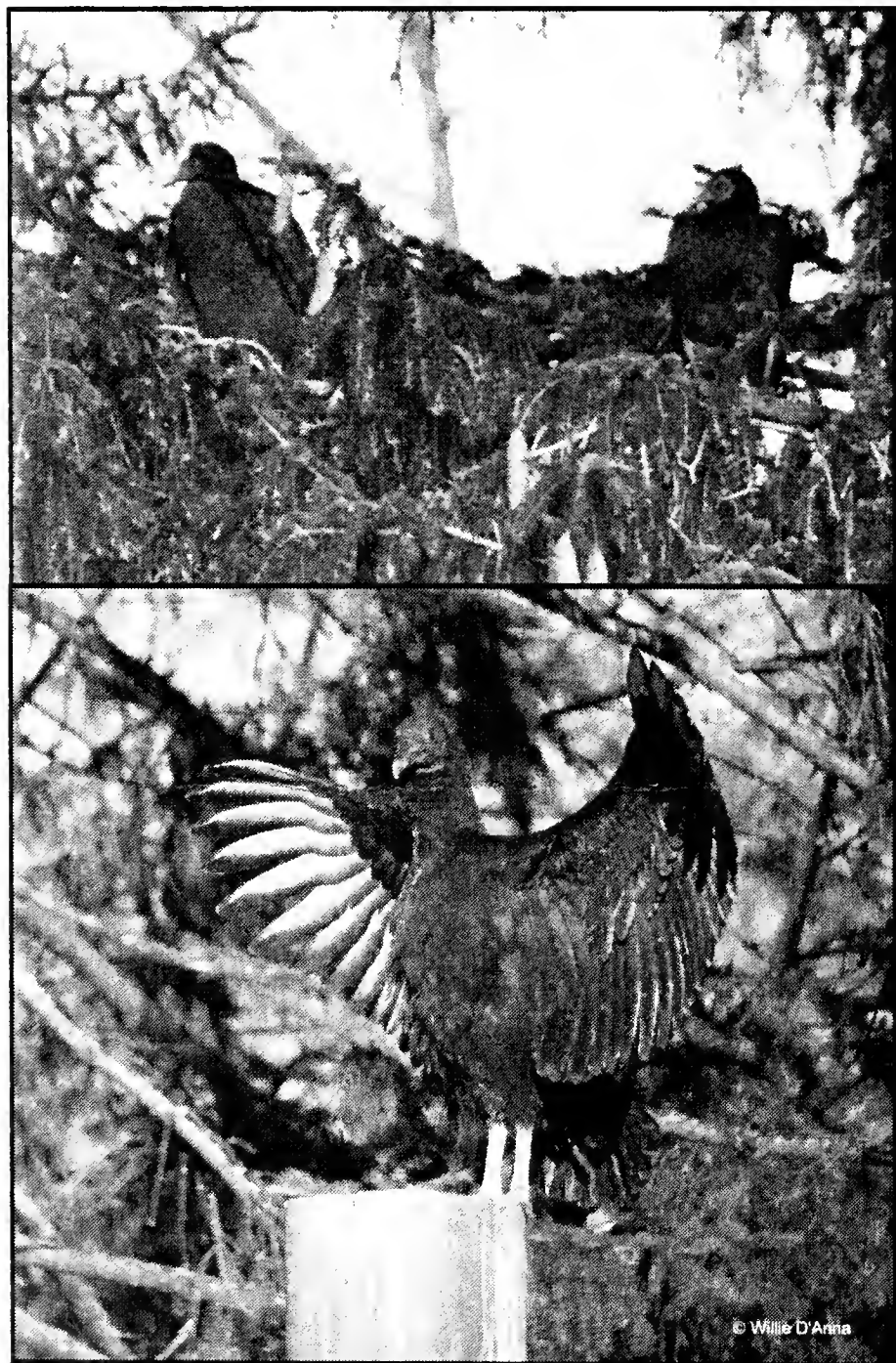


The American White Pelican reported during November was seen again on the December 1 at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, by Van de Laar and Adamo.

The Black Vultures at Lewiston were seen throughout this month by many observers (photos below) with six individuals documented by D'Anna seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This record of six birds eclipsed last December's previous maximum of four birds and documents only the second December occurrence of Black Vulture in our region.

The Razorbill reported in November stayed through early December on Lake Ontario, near Fort Niagara State Park, where it was seen and documented by Willie D'Anna et al on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Some other sightings of note were a late Eastern Phoebe found by Celeste Morien on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Fort Erie, Ontario and Marsh Wren found by Watson at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Landon and Yonker et al found two Hermit Thrush at Goat Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Potter and D'Anna spotted a Brown Thrasher in Porter on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



Black Vultures photographed by Doug Daniels at Lewiston on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> (Top) and by Willie D'Anna at Lewiston on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Bottom)



Slaty-backed Gull photographed by Jean Iron at Niagara Falls, Ontario on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	<u>29</u>	2	Oakfield	Pawlicki
"	<u>30</u>	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Snow Goose	1	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	1; 26	3; 1	Oakfield	Wasilco; Morien
"	3	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	17	1	Cambria	Galas, Volkers
"	25	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	28; 29	1	Oakfield	Fox; Pawlicki
Cackling Goose	24	1	Cambria	Watson
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	R&E DeLeon et al
"	28	3	Oakfield	Fox
"	29	9	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	31	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Canada Goose	3	2000	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	1: 29	2500; 2500	Oakfield	Watson; Pawlicki
Mute Swan	8	2	Lewiston	Watson
"	26	1	Cassadaga	Lenz
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	1	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	4	1	Holland	Wojewodzki
"	18	4	Beaver I. SP	Ratajczak, DeCarolus
"	28	2	Tonawanda WMA	Rothman et al
Tundra Swan	1	28	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	3, 30	80,111	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	14; 31	36; 40	Chautauqua Lake	Watson; Berry
"	16; 27	78; 86	Shelby	Morien; Wood
"	18	75	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Wood Duck	1	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	19	1	Squaw I., Bflo.	Pawlicki
Gadwall	1; 23	32; 25	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Young
"	18	94	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	29	100	Chautauqua Lake	Lenz
American Black Duck	1; 9	27; 31	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	30	32	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	30	195	Oakfield	Morien
"	30	70	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Northern Shoveler	1	22	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	18; 28	15; 12	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Mitchell
Northern Pintail	1	12	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	1	8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	2	Oakfield	Morien
Green-winged Teal	10	2	Tift NP	Pawlicki
"	25	5	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	26	1	South Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
Canvasback	26	900	Niagara Falls	Wood
Redhead	4, 26	349, 250	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	26	500	Chautauqua Lake	Lenz



<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	90	Niagara Falls	Wood
Ring-necked Duck	3	44	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	39	Niagara River	Wood
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Greater Scaup	3	410	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	30	800	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	31	14	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Lesser Scaup	1	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4; 26	375; 350	Chautauqua Lake	Berry; Lenz
King Eider	26; 28	1 ad m	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg; K&A Williams
"	27	2	Point Breeze	Wood
Harlequin Duck	3-31	2 - 4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Mitchell; D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	1	7	Point Breeze	Purcell
Black Scoter	3; 27	7; 2	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al; Horton
"	14; 26	1; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Lenz
"	25	2	Point Breeze	Guthrie
Long-tailed Duck	8; 18	29; 60	Lewiston	Watson; Daniels et al
Bufflehead	26	1000	Squaw I.	Platt
Common Goldeneye	3; 10	440; 500	Niagara Falls	Watson; Higgins
"	18	705	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	1	116	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14; 26	102; 100	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Lenz
"	14; 24	201; 370	Chautauqua Lake	Watson; Lenz
"	26	50	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	47	North Tonawanda	Watson
Common Merganser	1; 18	58; 39	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Beattie
"	1	28	Oakfield	Watson
"	1, 4	8, 8	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	26	60	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26	110	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Red-br. Merganser	3, 30	320, 400	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	14	177	Barcelona Harbor	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1	11	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	9; 18; 28	69; 18; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Beattie; Mitchell
"	16; 31	386; 200	Chautauqua Lake	Jewett; Lenz
Wild Turkey	11	5	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Red-throated Loon	14, 28	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	27	5	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	78	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
"	30	1	Ripley Beach	Lenz
Common Loon	1, 3	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	14; 31	3; 1	Chautauqua Lake	Watson, Pawlicki; Berry
"	27	4	Ransomville	Morgante
Pied-billed Grebe	3	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Horned Grebe	26	60	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
"	27	70	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Red-necked Grebe	27	1	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	2	Chautauqua Lake	Lenz
"	27	11	Point Breeze	Wood
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	1	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Van de Laar, Adamo
D.-crested Cormorant	1	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	247	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	8	14	Queenston	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	14	27	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	18	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Carlson et al
<u>Black Vulture</u>	4, 8, 27	3, 1, 6	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	18; 24	2; 2	Lewiston	Daniels; Watson, D'Anna
Turkey Vulture	8 - 27	11 - 14	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Bald Eagle	3	2 ad + n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	26	3 ad	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	3 - 26	1 - 2	Throughout BOS area	10 reports
Northern Harrier	22, 24	5, 6	Alexander	Dart, Beattie



<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	10	Shelby	Morien
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	1	Busti	Berry
Rough-legged Hawk	11	1	Ridgeway	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	1 dark	Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	1	Oakfield	Galas et al
Merlin	4	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	5	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	11; 18	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg et al; Mitchell et al
"	13	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Young
"	29	1	Oakfield	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	4	1	Buffalo	Humann
"	11	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	12, 26	1, 1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	18	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Morgante
"	26	1	Squaw I.	Watson
American Coot	1	126	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	1152	Chautauqua Lake	Watson
Purple Sandpiper	4F	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Iron, Tozer
Black-leg. Kittiwake	3, 4; 8	1 imm	Whirlpool SP	D'Anna; Pawlicki, Watson
"	4	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al
"	18	1	Squaw I.	Mitchell
"	19	2-3	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al
"	22	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	2	5500	Queenston (Ont)	B&B DiLabio
"	14	2100	Barcelona Harbor	Watson
"	19	10000	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	24	3500	Squaw I.	Humann
"	27	1136	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
Black-headed Gull	18 – 26	1	Squaw I.	Wojewodzki, Pawlicki et al
Little Gull	3; 26	1; 1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
"	11	1	Whirlpool SP	Humann, D'Anna et al
"	26	3; 7	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter; Wood
Franklin's Gull	3, 4L	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
<u>California Gull</u>	18	1	Goat I.	Landon, DeLeon et al
Iceland Gull	3	2	Goat I.	Watson
"	18	10	Robert Moses Hydro	Carlson
"	26, 31	9, 15	Devils Hole SP area	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	10	1	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki
"	10; 18	12; 9	Goat I.	D'Anna; Landon et al
"	30	1	Point Breeze	Yoerg
<u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	3 ; 5; 13	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Pawlicki; Roy et al
"	8	1	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki, Mitchell
Glaucous Gull	3	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	10	1	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki
Great Black-b. Gull	18	150	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	26	47	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
"	26	200	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	31	6	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Jaeger species	4	1	Niagara River	Carlson
<u>Razorbill</u>	3	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al
* Snowy Owl	10 - 28	1	Erie Basin Marina	Yoerg, Pawlicki et al
"	17	1	Cheektowaga	G&M Coniglio
"	18	1	Jordan Harbour (Ont)	Dobos
"	30	1 (dead)	Lewiston	Adams
"	31	1	Port Weller (Ont)	G&M Coniglio
Short-eared Owl	9	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	22, 24	3, 2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	22, 23	1	Shelby	Morien, Young
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	18	3	Ellicott	Berry
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Baksh
Eastern Phoebe	18L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morien
Northern Shrike	1 - 29	1 - 2	Throughout WNY	10 reports



<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Crow	28	1 blonde	Ridgeway	Dart, Beattie
Common Raven	11	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	25	1	Salamanca	Baird
Carolina Wren	3	2	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	18	1	Beaver I. SP	Mitchell, Pwlicki
"	24	1	Goat I.	Watson et al
"	26	2	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Winter Wren	3	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	3	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	17	1	Lockport	Pawlicki, Callaghan
"	18; 23	2; 1	Goat I.	Yoerg; Carlson
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Marsh Wren	<u>1</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Golden-cr. Kinglet	18	16	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Eastern Bluebird	1, 25, 31	3, 1, 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	9	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Humann
"	31	4	Orchard Park	Morgante
Hermit Thrush	18	2	Goat I.	Landon, Yonker et al
Gray Catbird	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Rosenburg et al
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Young, Rising et al
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
Northern Mockingbird	26	9	South Park	Pawlicki, Watson
Brown Thrasher	27	1	Porter	Potter, D'Anna
Black-&-White Warbler	<u>18</u>	1	Spicer Creek WMA	Zebehazy
Orange-cr. Warbler	<u>23; 24</u>	1	Goat I.	Carlson; D'Anna et al
Common Yellowthroat	29; 30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; Morien
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	<u>29, 30</u>	1	Amherst	Daudelin; Pawlicki
Yellow-r. Warbler	3	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	19	1	Spicer Creek WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	24	2	Lincoln (Ont)	Holland
"	29	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki
Wilson's Warbler	<u>1, 6, 7</u>	1	Williamsville	Salembier et al
Eastern Towhee	1	1	Point Breeze	Purcell
Song Sparrow	31	11	Orchard Park	Morgante
Swamp Sparrow	3	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18	7	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	30	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	31	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	31	6	Sinking Ponds NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
White-cr. Sparrow	17	1	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	28	1	Alabama	R&E DeLeon et al
Snow Bunting	27	6	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
Red-w. Blackbird	11	8	Grand I.	Pawlicki
"	18	6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	29	15	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	31	2	Bethany	Beattie
Rusty Blackbird	31	12	East Aurora	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Brown-head. Cowbird	17	200	Cambria	Galas, Volkers
"	29	35	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Purple Finch	14	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	31	8	Chautauqua Lake	Leenders
House Finch	24	53	Goat I.	Watson
Pine Siskin	18	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	24	12	Chautauqua Lake	Lenz

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 287

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 002

Total for the year 2012 (Final): **289**

Herring X Glaucous Gull	26	1	Devils Hole SP	Wood
* <u>Thayer's Gull</u>	16	1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



#### **Addenda for 2011:**

Acadian Flycatcher	<u>Sept. 5</u>	1
Philadelphia Vireo	May 24, 25	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<u>Apr. 20</u>	1

#### **Addendum for 2009:**

Cackling Goose	<u>Oct 4</u>	1
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#### **Addendum for 2007:**

<u>California Gull</u>	Jan 20	1
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Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Tonawanda	Hess
Panama	Beebe

Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
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Niagara Falls (ONT)	Pawlicki
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## **Statisticians Note Regarding Addenda and the Year (2011) in Review**

*Mike Morgante*

There were only a few noteworthy records included in the 2011 addenda and no new species for the year. An early male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was documented by Ann Beebe at her feeder in Panama. Richard Salembier documented the latest Acadian Flycatcher on record when he saw and heard one at Forest Lawn Cemetery on September 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted numerous flycatchers in the cemetery that day. There were two records included in the addenda from prior to 2011. While organizing his photos, Jim Pawlicki noticed that he had photos of a Cackling Goose (2009) outside of the current dates in the Verification Date Guide and a California Gull that he had not submitted from 2007.

The 2011 species, subspecies, and named hybrids total is 289, which is seven more than in 2010 but three behind the 292 total for 2008 and 2009. There were several species on the B.O.S. field checklist that were *not* recorded in 2011 including: Glossy Ibis (none since 2008), Willet (surprising considering the increased report in recent years), Sabine's Gull (none since 2009), Barn Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Brewster's Warbler, Lawrence's Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill. Eurasian Collared-Dove was documented for the first time in the B.O.S. Study Area in 2011. Very rare species with accepted records in 2011 included: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Stork, Swainson's Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Pomarine Jaeger, Slaty-backed Gull, Razorbill, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Nelson's Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak.

The Statisticians appreciate all those that submitted sightings in this past year. Your contributions make up the noteworthy records and the ornithological record of the Society. Bruce Chilton deserves much kudos for the many hours he spends compiling the sightings from your e-mails, letters, and the eBird records summary I send him

each month. We also appreciate that Kayo Roy, Jim Pawlicki, David Suggs, Jim Berry, Marcie Jacklin, and Celeste Morien helped us obtain verification reports.

We reviewed a whopping 234 verification reports in 2011, which is 87 more than in 2010. Approximately 54 of these were multiple reports for the same bird or birds. Approximately 94% of the verification reports that we reviewed were accepted, including multiple verification reports for the same bird (e.g. five reports for the Razorbill). If you remove the multiple reports, it was approximately 93.6% acceptance. The primary reason for reports not accepted was the description lacked enough detail to confidently eliminate all other species.

The months of March, April, May, October, November, and December were especially busy as there were many more verification reports than during the other months. We are already in need of a Verification Date Guide revision and the Statisticians are in the early stages of the revision process thanks to a considerable effort by Jim Pawlicki to review dates and initiate the process for us.



**Thayer's Gull (with Bonaparte's and Herring Gulls)**  
photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Devils Hole State Park on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **March - June Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park** in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting) and see what is migrating! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com))

**Mar. 14: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Joshua Stiller a recent graduate of the Syracuse School of Forestry, Satellite telemetry and ecology of Common Mergansers utilizing trout streams in southeastern New York.

**Mar. 31: Sat. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna 716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners, this is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

**Mar 31: Application Deadline for 2012 BOS Special Projects Grant.** Applicants can download the application form from <http://www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org/>, complete it, and either scan and send electronic file to [Rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:Rldeleon@yahoo.com) or send a paper copy to: Robert L. DeLeon, 381 Cadman Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221.

**Apr. 11: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Marcie Jacklin will discuss the results of the BOS October Count and David Gordon will discuss the results of the BOS Christmas Count.

**Apr. 15.: BOS Annual April Count.** All members are encouraged to participate in the Seventy-eighth count. Anyone interested should contact the compiler: Holly Sweeney (716-639-0158 or [holran171@verizon.net](mailto:holran171@verizon.net)).

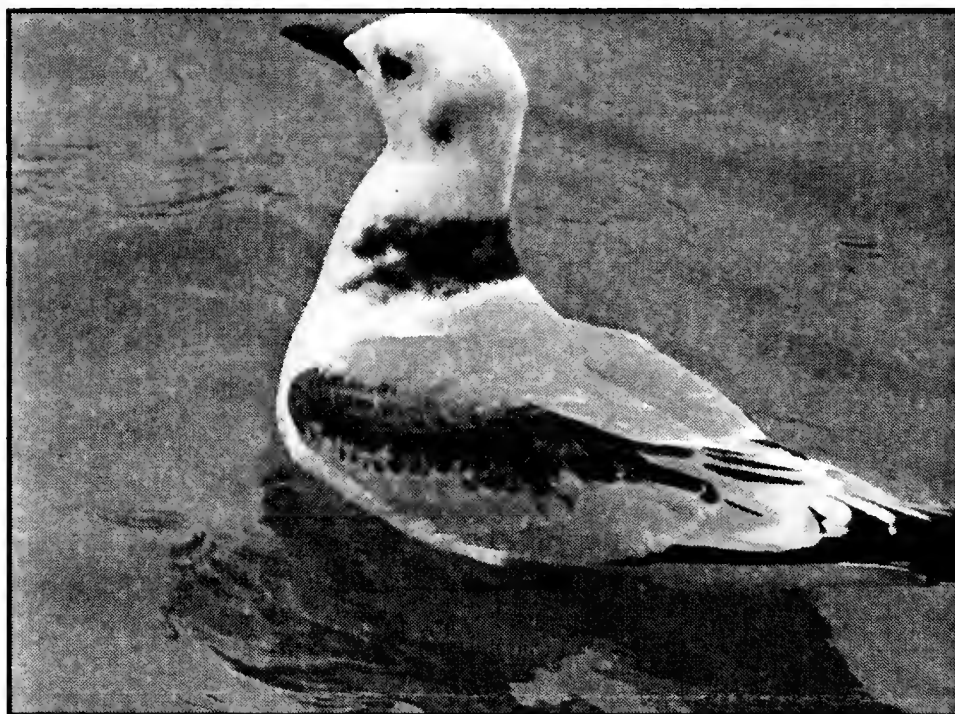
**April 22. Braddock Bay Trip, for spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds.** This is our annual joint trip, with the Rochester Birding Assn (RBA), to the Braddock Bay hawk watch and surrounding area. We will meet to car pool at 7:30 am, Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. We will hit some birding hotspots on the way! If you plan to drive on your own, we will meet the RBA group at 9:30 am in the Braddock Bay Parking Lot. (Take route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway, and then take the exit for East Mantou Road/Braddock Bay Park). Leaders: BOS: David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)) and RBA: Bob Spahn, who will lead us to Monroe County birding hot spots.

**May 6: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve for early warblers and migrants.** Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Joe Mitchell.

**May 9: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** (Speaker/Topic TBD).

**May 20: Sunday. BOS Annual May Bird Count.** All members are encouraged to participate. Anyone interested should contact the compiler. Compiler: Robert DeLeon (716-626-0325 or [rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rldeleon@yahoo.com)).

**June 13: Wednesday. BOS Meeting and Picnic at 6:00PM at Tifft Nature Preserve.**

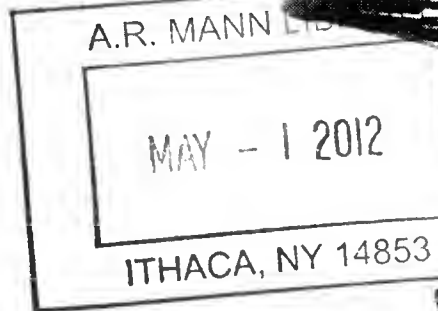


(Top) First-winter Black-legged Kittiwake at Squaw Island on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Horned Grebe at Dunkirk Harbor on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Both photographs courtesy of Bill Watson.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 78, No. 2 February 2012

### THE MONTH: January

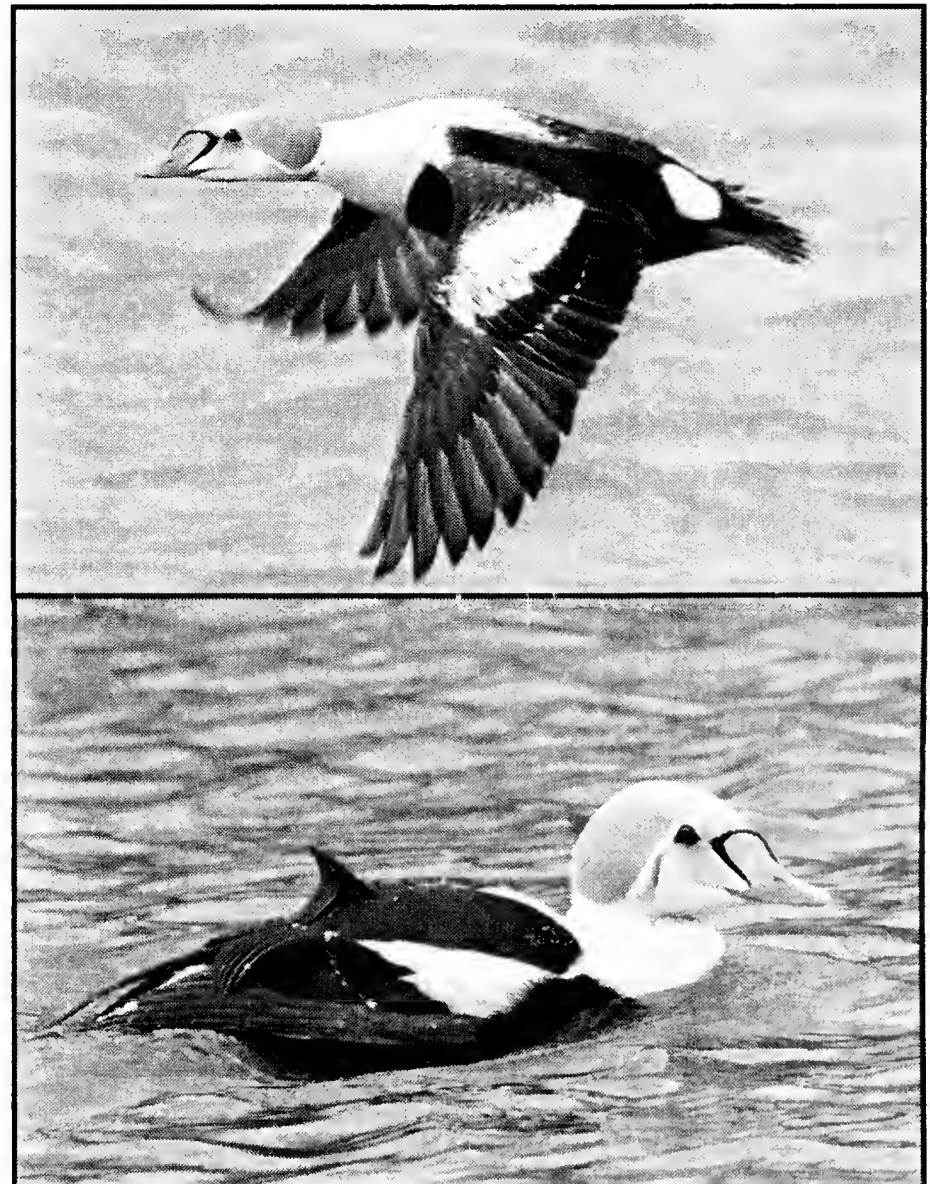
Jim Pawlicki

Following a mild November and December, January of 2012 was no different, with unseasonably mild conditions and below average snowfall. The month's mean temperature was a balmy 30.3 degrees Fahrenheit, 5.4 degrees above average and 9.0 degrees above the January 2011 average. Monthly total snowfall at the Buffalo-Niagara International airport was reported at 20.8 inches, 4.5 inches below average. Putting the season's snowfall into perspective, the seasonal total by the end of January stood at only 24.6 inches, a whopping 36.9 inches below the seasonal average. Not unexpectedly, all of Lake Ontario and the eastern basin of Lake Erie remained open throughout the month with the temperature of the latter falling to 34 degrees by the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Given the lack of snowfall and mild temperatures, it was no surprise that waterfowl took advantage of the mild conditions and remained throughout the region. Thirty-two species were recorded, with notable January observations of Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Cackling Geese occurring with large numbers of wintering Canada Geese, and several half-hardy dabblers such as Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal making appearances as well. On Lake Ontario, a drake Barrow's Goldeneye was observed for the sixth consecutive winter near the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek at Point Breeze where it was observed on the 4<sup>th</sup> by Joe Mitchell and the author. At the opposite end of the region, a returning adult drake King Eider on Lake Ontario at Port Weller, Ontario continued into January (photos below), and was admired by many, arguably being the rarest and most sought after plumage of this species to be seen on the Great Lakes.

For the second consecutive winter, and continuing from December, Black Vultures were observed along the lower Niagara River. Often seen in the village of Lewiston at a winter roost alongside small numbers of Turkey

were often seen taking advantage of hot air rising from a nearby residential chimney (see photos in January 2012 issue of *The Prothonotary*) and on several occasions were observed vying with each other over "chimney rights." Age differences were also noted between some of the birds, and at least two appeared to be pale-billed juveniles and one a darker-billed adult. Of course these age differences beg to question whether these birds are all part of one or more family groups that had bred in the nearby Niagara gorge over the previous summer.



King Eider photographed by Mike Veltri at Port Weller, Ontario between January 7-29<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |                                   |                                 |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 | <b>The Month</b>                  | Vultures, the                   |
|    | Jim Pawlicki                      | month's maximum                 |
| 13 | <b>January Waterfowl Ct. 2012</b> | of six was noted                |
|    | Jim Landau                        | there by Willie                 |
| 15 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>         | D'Anna on the 7 <sup>th</sup> . |
|    | Bruce Chilton & Statisticians     | Despite the                     |
| 20 | <b>Calendar</b>                   | relatively mild                 |
|    |                                   | winter conditions,              |
|    |                                   | the Black Vultures              |

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

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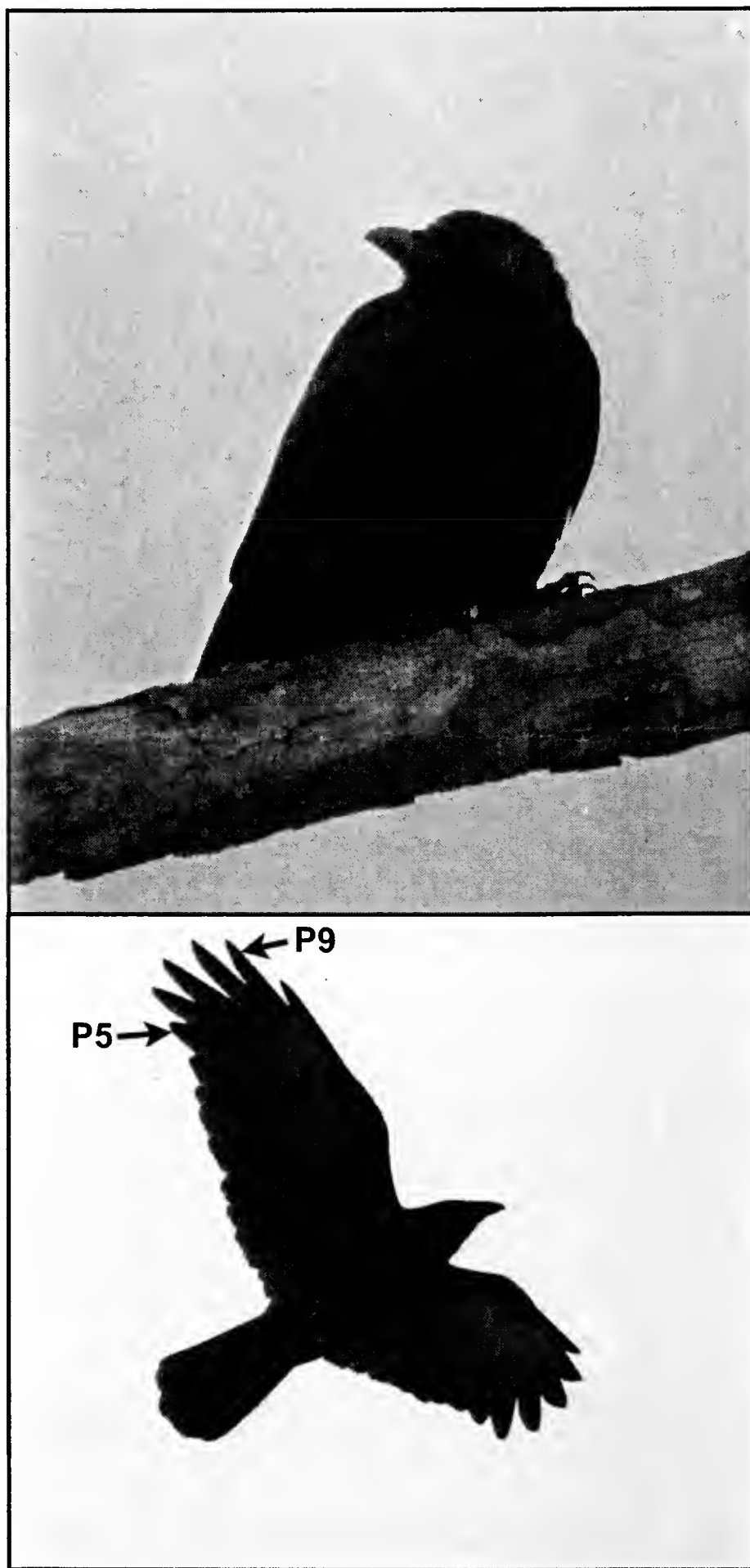
David Suggs

With the Niagara River remaining ice free throughout the month, flocks ranging from 2,500-6,500 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted along the upper river at the north end of the Black Rock Canal adjacent to Squaw Island and Rich Marine. Given the lack of ice, it appeared that the gulls were taking advantage of the large schools of baitfish in the calmer and shallower portions of the canal that would not have been available otherwise. A single first-year Black-legged Kittiwake, adult Black-headed Gull, and up to four Little Gulls lingered from December and were collectively observed from the 7<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, up to three Little Gulls were found on the lower Niagara River at the traditional location in Lewiston/Queenston, while two individuals on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Barcelona Harbor

on Lake Erie were unusual for the date, but hardly unexpected given the open waters.

Snowy Owls made a widespread invasion into much of southern Canada and the United States this winter with at least eight observations made this month between the Western New York region and the Niagara Peninsula. A long-staying and reliable immature male Snowy Owl was observed from at least the 6<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> on the breakwalls and water intake structure in Buffalo Harbor, while single individuals were noted along the Niagara River at Squaw Island, and on the Lake Ontario Plain at Fort Niagara State Park, Wilson Pier, and in the town of Yates. On the Niagara Peninsula, up to two Snowy Owls were observed at Port Weller on Lake Ontario, while additional individuals were noted at St. Catharines and Jordan Station. Small numbers of wintering Short-eared Owls were also observed this month at traditional sites in the towns of Hartland and Shelby, while up to six were observed by Doug Beattie et al. at a recently discovered wintering location in the town of Alexander.

A long awaited first record for the BOS Study Area, Fish Crows were found in not one, but two locations this month. Jeff Reed discovered a calling bird near the confluence of the Olean and Allegany Rivers in the city of Olean on the 10<sup>th</sup> and later observed either the same or



Fish Crow photographed by Willie D'Anna (Top) and Jim Pawlicki (Bottom) at Fort Erie, Ontario on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Note Primary P9 ≥ P5 (American Crow: P5 > P9) <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/FishCrow.htm>

different individual on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. In both instances, Reed clearly observed a single crow give the species distinctive, nasal "uh-uh" call notes, a sound he was familiar with from experience with the species along the Atlantic coast. While birding along the Niagara River, Josh Vandermeulen of Guelph, Ontario detected a calling Fish Crow amongst a pre-roost flock of American Crows in the town of Fort Erie (Ont.) on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Over the following weeks, several observations of Fish Crows were made from the residential neighborhood around Bowen Road in Fort Erie, where 1-4 individuals were documented from the 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. All observers noted the Fish Crows' slightly smaller size and short, nasal calls



that Kayo Roy described as “a short nasal sounding ‘caar, caar, caar, caar’.” Flight shots of two individuals (see photos above) were also obtained on the 30<sup>th</sup> and clearly illustrate the short fifth primary on each wing that gives Fish Crows their pointier-winged appearance in flight. The expansion of Fish Crows from their native range along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts into interior North America has been well documented over the last several decades, and it appears that they are now becoming well adapted to living in interior cities and towns. Somewhat surprising might be the fact that Fish Crows are now regularly found as residents along much of the Mississippi River and many of its tributaries as far north and west as southern Missouri, eastern Kansas, and southern Illinois.

Notable for the month of January were three species of warblers and nine species of sparrows, highlighted by a lingering Orange-crowned Warbler (photo on page 19) from the 4<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at Goat Island and a “one-day wonder” Lark Sparrow found by Gary Chapin and Jeanne Skelly along Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road in the town of Yates on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Both Chapin and Skelly provided photos of the Lark Sparrow (photo on page 19) as it perched in a roadside shrub, and watched as it ate grit along the shoulder of the road. This is the second January record of Lark Sparrow for the study area and only the fifth overall, with the most recent prior record from 17-24 November 2010 in the town of Wilson. Earlier in the month, Corey Callaghan discovered a Savannah Sparrow at his feeders in the town of Hartland on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and while searching for the Lark Sparrow on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, D’Anna and Watson discovered another Savannah Sparrow (photo on page 19) in a roadside swale in the town of Yates. Although a common summer resident, Savannah Sparrows are rarely observed in mid-winter, with the above records only the fifth and sixth January records of Savannah Sparrow in the BOS study area. Other notable sparrows included an “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco (photo on page 19) observed and verified by D’Anna and Potter on the 14<sup>th</sup> in the town of Yates, and two Field Sparrows observed by Elaine Dart in the town of Alexander on the 31<sup>st</sup>. D’Anna obtained photos of the “Oregon” Junco and noted its “black hood that was convex on the breast contrasted strongly with the reddish brown back, white belly, and reddish flanks,” thereby separating it from brownish “Slate-colored” Juncos and other subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco. Although native to the western half of North America, “Oregon” Dark-eyed



Adult Golden Eagle photographed by Jeff Reed at Allegany State Park on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Juncos have been of semi-regular occurrence within the study area, with 48 records in the BOS database from 1961-2011.

Winter finches and other irruptive species observed during the month included small numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins, the majority of which were noted either on the Niagara Peninsula or along the Lake Ontario Plain. A single White-winged Crossbill was observed by Peter Yoerg and Barbarah Henderson on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Four Mile Creek State Park, and D’Anna verified a single Bohemian Waxwing among a flock of 300 Cedar Waxwings in the town of Newfane on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Willie D’Anna and Mike Morgante for their comments and suggestions.

#### Literature Cited:

Birdingonthe.net mailing list archives found at: <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/holzmanarchives.html>

Buffalo National Weather Service accessed from: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database: 1964-2008.

eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>.

## **January 2012 Waterfowl Count Summary**

*Jim Landau*

**Overview.** The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state’s 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955. The count area includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and any productive open interior bodies of water. The 9-day count period begins on the Saturday just prior to the Martin Luther King holiday, which is always the third Monday in January. Thus, the count period this year was January 14-22, with the target date of Sunday, January 15. Final results of the statewide count will be published in “The Kingbird” and will also be available online at <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

**Weather.** January 2012 was the third consecutive month that the average temperature was 5 degrees above the climatological average. Temperatures remained unseasonably mild leading up to the count period, however a temporary surge of arctic air arrived for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, along with 6.4" of snow on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the target day temperatures started out in the single digits and only managed to climb to a high of 20°F. That was enough to lock up most of the previously unfrozen, shallow inland bodies of water through the count period. Lake Erie has remained unfrozen as of this writing.

**Species Notes.** A review of the full count record for our region reveals that many species numbers fluctuate

with no apparent trending increases or decreases in evidence. For some species there are simply not enough individuals tallied to be statistically significant, while others only turn up on the count sporadically. In 2012, sightings in this category included Brant, Cackling Goose, Green-winged Teal, Surf and Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye and Red-necked Grebe. Nonetheless, some identifiable population trends were noted this year when viewed as part of the past 20 years of count data.

Upward trends were evidenced for Canada Goose (second highest count), Redhead, Hooded Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser and continued downward trends noted for Gadwall and American Black Duck.

American Wigeon continues a notably poor showing, following a precipitous drop five years ago. Canvasback numbers were the lowest in 17 years. By contrast, Redhead numbers spiked to a new record high for the count. A number of observers commented on the "reverse abundance" of these two species from their expected showing. The high number of unidentified individuals this year can likely be attributed to the extensive dispersal of waterfowl on an unfrozen Lake Erie. This year's total count of 39,220 individuals is markedly down from the previous 3 counts but does not appear to alter the 20 year trend increase.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Snow Goose	1	(B)
Cackling Goose	1	(A)
Canada Goose	6642	
Mute Swan	14	(A, B, I)
Tundra Swan	173	(E, F, G)
Wood Duck	2	(E, P)
Gadwall	9	(E, H, J)
American Wigeon	1	(E)
American Black Duck	108	
Mallard	4456	
Mallard x Black Duck	6	(M, N/O)
Green-winged Teal	1	(J)
Canvasback	3034	
Redhead	2621	New count high
Ring-necked Duck	31	(D, F, G)
Greater Scaup	5701	
Lesser Scaup	15	(D, G, I)
Scaup species	89	
Surf Scoter	1	(B)
White-winged Scoter	204	
Black Scoter	1	(A)
Long-tailed Duck	1355	
Bufflehead	1848	
Common Goldeneye	3729	
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	(A)
Hooded Merganser	168	
Common Merganser	1356	
Red-breasted Merganser	4028	
Pied-billed Grebe	5	(D, I, J)
Horned Grebe	12	
Red-necked Grebe	1	(A)
Double-crested Cormorant	96	
American Coot	261	
Unidentified	3249	
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>39220</b>	

**Species Compilation.** The adjacent table lists the species observed on this count and their accumulated totals. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the sections are given in parentheses.

### Participation in the National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey

The January Waterfowl Count overlaps with the National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. Teams are asked to report any eagle sightings made during their count. These sightings are passed on to both the New York DEC and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which now coordinates the national survey. This year the waterfowl teams found a total of 16 Bald Eagles, down from last year's count of 32.

### Acknowledgements

The compiler wishes to thank the following section leaders (listed first), participants and contributors for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count:

- A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell
- B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): Peter Yoerg, Barbara Henderson
- C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY: Robert DeLeon, Donna DeLeon
- D. Niagara-on-the-Lake to Niagara Falls, ON: Mike Zebehazy, Doug Happ
- E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr.: John Thill, Jim Landau
- E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: Gerry Rising, Chris Hollister, Charles Mitchell, Nathaniel Young
- F1. Peace Bridge to Niagara Falls, ON: Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker, Art Hannah, Julie Tedesco
- F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Fort Erie, ON: Bill Watson, Jim Pawlicki, David Gordon, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn, Peter Bonenfant, Willie D'Anna, Corey Callaghan
- G. Grand Island, NY: Michael Morgante, Chris Aikos
- H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek, NY): David Suggs, Deborah Suggs
- I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): Fran Rew, Audrey Horbett
- J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, Paul Doran
- K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus Co. from Olean to Allegheny Reservoir at PA line.): Tim Baird, Pat Coate, Bert Schweigert
- L. Allegany County: Gary Klock, Russell Allen, Larry Wilson
- M. Batavia, NY: Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart
- N/O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: Ed Ratajczak, Priscilla Sedgwick
- P. Williamsville, Cheektowaga and Lancaster, NY: Karen Lee Lewis
- Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY: Tom Connare
- R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: Elizabeth Wells, James Rozanski



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	<u>1</u>	2	Somerset	D'Anna
Snow Goose	<u>4</u>	1	Point Breeze	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	<u>6</u>	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Carlson
"	<u>15</u>	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Cackling Goose	<u>4</u>	7	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Canada Goose	<u>8</u>	2600	Oakfield	Watson
Mute Swan	<u>1; 16</u>	<u>10; 2</u>	Point Breeze	Morien; Lazarczyk
"	<u>6</u>	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	<u>9</u>	3	Pomfret	Holmes
"	<u>11; 18</u>	<u>3; 3</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>21</u>	2	Beaver I. SP	Humann
Tundra Swan	<u>15; 30</u>	<u>159; 158</u>	Beaver I. SP	Morgante; Sharon
"	<u>29</u>	27	Strawberry I.	Watson
Gadwall	<u>9</u>	12	Goat I.	Hartquist
American Wigeon	<u>12</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
American Black Duck	<u>1</u>	2	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	<u>7; 8</u>	<u>28; 32</u>	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	<u>15</u>	11	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Black Duck X Mallard	<u>16</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Mallard	<u>8</u>	660	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	<u>4 - 14</u>	8	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell, Fox
Northern Pintail	<u>4</u>	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	<u>1</u>	1	Lackawanna	Landau, Rew et al
"	<u>3, 20</u>	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	<u>28</u>	2	Point Breeze	Guthrie
Canvasback	<u>15</u>	700	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	<u>15; 18</u>	<u>2045; 980</u>	Grand I.	Morgante; Lazarczyk
"	<u>16</u>	2400	Beaver I. SP	Callaghan
Redhead	<u>15</u>	59	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	<u>15; 30</u>	<u>45; 350</u>	Grand I.	Morgante; Sharon
"	<u>18</u>	110	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Ring-necked Duck	<u>4</u>	20	LaSalle Park, Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	<u>15</u>	6	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	<u>29</u>	12	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin
Greater Scaup	<u>1</u>	27	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	<u>15</u>	982	Grand I.	Morgante, Akios
Lesser Scaup	<u>15</u>	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
King Eider	<u>7 - 29</u>	1 ad m	Port Weller (Ont)	R&H Maciver et al
Harlequin Duck	<u>8; 21</u>	<u>1; 3</u>	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna (NYSOA); Platt
"	<u>17</u>	4	Goat I.	Callaghan, Horton
Surf Scoter	<u>2</u>	1	Point Breeze	Tetlow
"	<u>15</u>	1 ad	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	<u>15</u>	25	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	<u>26</u>	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Landau, Rew
Black Scoter	<u>19</u>	2	Point Breeze	Tetlow
"	<u>26</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Landau, Rew
Long-tailed Duck	<u>15</u>	682	Fort Erie (Ont)	Bonenfant, Watson et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bufflehead	15	1084	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Common Goldeneye	1	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	15	1695	Fort Erie (Ont)	Gordon, Watson et al
"	16	2200	Niagara River	Sly
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	4	1	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki
Hooded Merganser	11, 18	86, 52	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	29	66	North Tonawanda	Watson
Common Merganser	1	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	29	910	Strawberry I.	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	18	2545	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Ruddy Duck	15	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin
"	24	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Red-throated Loon	1; 22	23; 1	Shadigee	D'Anna; Watson
"	1	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Highcock, Hampson
"	1; 22	14; 7	Somerset	D'Anna; D'Anna, Morien
Common Loon	1	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	1	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Highcock, Hampson
"	1	1	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	22	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Pied-billed Grebe	1-10	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	8	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Jacklin et al
"	18; 26	6; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Landau
"	30	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Horned Grebe	1	66	Yates	D'Anna
"	1; 22	123; 32	Somerset	D'Anna; D'Anna, Morien
"	19	47	Carlton	Tetlow
Red-necked Grebe	1	65	Somerset	D'Anna
"	1	78	Yates	D'Anna
"	4; 16	2; 3	Point Breeze	Mitchell; Lazarczyk
"	22	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	22	1	Shadigee	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	11, 18	158, 108	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	22	6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Yoerg et al
Great Blue Heron	11, 17	5, 17	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	20	8	Motor I.	Watson
"	21	6	Strawberry I.	Humann
"	29	7	Tonawanda	Watson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	4, 14	3, 4	Lewiston	Pawlicki et al
"	7, 8	6, 2	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
Turkey Vulture	7; 14; 15	7; 9; 11	Lewiston	Pawlicki; D'Anna; Carlson
Bald Eagle	1; 8	2ad+n	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Watson
"	7	2 ad	Tonawanda	Watson
"	7	2 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
"	11	2	Hanover	Watson
"	15	4	Motor I.	Sharon
"	22; 28	7; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Holmes; Goetz
"	26	2	South Dayton	Landau, Rew
"	29	2	Strawberry I.	Watson
Northern Harrier	1, 5	5, 4	Alexander	Beattie
"	22	4	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	2	RT Peterson Institute	Berry
"	11	1	Stockton	DeFrancisco
Rough-legged Hawk	22	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	26	2	South Dayton	Landau, Rew
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	15	1	Allegany SP	Reed
Merlin	4; 25	1; 1	Oakfield	Mitchell; Pawlicki et al
"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Holmes
"	21	1	Beaver I. SP	Humann
"	25	1	Olean	Mitchell, Watson et al
"	25	1	Shelby	Morien
"	27	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Pawlicki, Callaghan
"	28	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	B&J Farnan



<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1 juv	Somerset	D'Anna
"	5	2	N. Grand I. bridge	Humann
"	14; 28	1; 1	Buffalo	Gordon; Watson et al
"	16	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
"	21	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin et al
American Coot	11, 18	126, 94	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	15	4	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	21	3	Beaver I. SP	Humann
"	22	10	Grand Island	Sharon
"	22	16	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Black-leg. Kittiwake	2 - 22	1 juv	Squaw I., Buffalo	Pawlicki, many observers
Bonaparte's Gull	2; 7	2500; 3000	Squaw I., Buffalo	Yoerg; Watson
"	16	6500	Niagara River	Sly
"	18	1000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Black-headed Gull	12 - 31	1	Squaw I., Buffalo	Pawlicki, many observers
Little Gull	7 - 30	1 - 4	Squaw I.	Many observers
"	8; 17	3; 3	Lewiston	D'Anna (NYSOA); Sly
"	10	1 ad	Queenston (Ont)	Carpentier
"	18	2	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Iceland Gull	15; 20	18; 10	Robt. Moses Hydro	Carlson; Daniels, Jacobs
"	22	2	Goat I.	Yoerg
"	29, 30	1 imm	Tonawanda	Watson
"	31	1	Motor I.	Mitchell
Lesser Black-b. Gull	3	1	Lake Erie SP	Walker
"	21; 23	7; 4	Goat I.	D'Anna et al; Lazarczyk
"	25	1	Sardinia	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Glaucous Gull	16	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	16	2	Goat I.	Hartquist
"	25	2 imm	Sardinia	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
"	26	1	Dunkirk	Landau, Rew
"	30	3	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Great Black-b. Gull	25	6	Sardinia	Mitchell
Snowy Owl	5	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Owl Foundation staff
"	6 - 25	1	Buffalo Harbor	Landau, Happ et al
"	7 - 11	1	Port Weller (Ont)	North, Roy et al
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	B&D DeLeon
"	16	1	Wilson Pier	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Jordan Station (Ont)	Thomson, Akkerman
"	20	1	Squaw I., Bflo.	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	22; 26	1; 1	Yates	D'Anna et al; Dart et al
Short-eared Owl	4; 22	2; 3	Shelby	Mitchell; S&T O'Donnell
"	14	3	Hartland	Callaghan, D'Anna et al
"	20, 21, 25	6, 3, 3	Alexander	Beattie et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4; 12	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Beattie
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3	1	Fredonia	Goetz
Northern Shrike	1 - 22	1 - 2	Throughout WNY	Several observers
American Crow	18	360	Wheatfield	Watson
"	28	600	Buffalo	Watson
"	31	1200	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
<u>Fish Crow</u>	10, 22	1	Olean	Reed
"	15	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Vandermeulen et al
"	28, 31	1, 3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Roy et al
"	30	4; 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Watson
Common Raven	8	2	Marilla	Holmes
"	25	3	Franklinville	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Horned Lark	14	84	Oakfield	Fox
"	14, 15	76, 75	Bethany	Beattie
"	14; 30	12; 35	Yates	D'Anna et al; Dart et al
"	14	75	Shelby	Morien
Carolina Wren	5	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	11	2	Falconer (f)	DeFrancisco
"	11	2	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	20	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
Winter Wren	27	1	Goat I.	Lazarczyk

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Eastern Bluebird	1; 30	9; 1	Somerset	D'Anna; Beattie
"	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	12	9	Yates	Beattie
"	15	4	Carlton	S&T O'Donnell
American Robin	2	50	Oakfield	Dart, Beattie
"	5, 15	50, 20	Fredonia	Goetz
"	26	50	Yates	Dart, Beattie
"	28	16	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	9	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	15	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	22	2	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	22	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Bohemian Waxwing	<u>29</u>	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Broderick
Cedar Waxwing	29	300	Newfane	D'Anna
Orange-cr. Warbler	<u>4, 20, 22</u>	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	<u>20</u>	1	Goat I.	Mitchell, Watson
Common Yellowthroat	<u>4</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Field Sparrow	31	2	Alexander	Dart
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	21	1	Yates	Skelly, Chapin
Savannah Sparrow	<u>13, 14</u>	1	Hartland	Callaghan
"	<u>22</u>	1	Yates & Somerset	D'Anna, Watson et al
Swamp Sparrow	1	3	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	28	1	Kiantone	Mitchell
White-cr. Sparrow	3, 22	2, 14	Bethany	Beattie
"	4	4	Porter	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
"	13, 22	2	Hartland	Callaghan
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	14	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Lapland Longspur	14	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	21	9	Wilson	Callaghan
Snow Bunting	15, 17	300, 700	Albion	Morien
"	21	575	Elba	Fox
"	21	130	Wilson	Callaghan
"	30	25	Yates	Dart, Beattie
Red-w. Blackbird	1	100	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	12	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	16	20	Gasport	Morien
"	4	1	West Shelby	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	7	1	Gerry	Berry
Common Grackle	22	1	Grand I.	Knab
Brown-head. Cowbird	4	1	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	16	15	Bethany	Beattie
"	19	1	Colden	Landau
"	20	22	Eden (f)	Andrie
Purple Finch	5	3	Colden	J&K Landau
"	7	1	Ellery	Berry
White-w. Crossbill	15	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Redpoll	14	4	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	15; 22	3; 7	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell ; Potter
"	15	16	Point Breeze	Carlson
"	29	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Pine Siskin	29; 30	15; 5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg et al; Watson et al

Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the year:

124

Total for the year 2012:

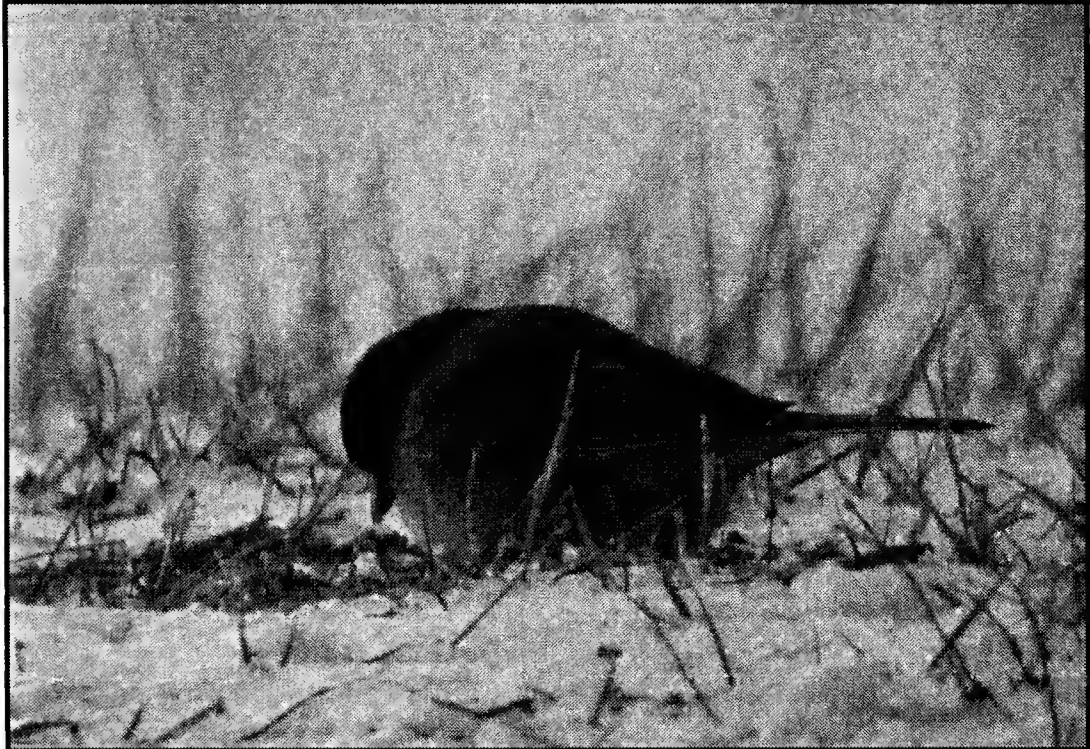
**124**



**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Other species seen in January:

Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.



(Top Right) Orange-crowned Warbler photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Goat Island on January 4<sup>th</sup>, (Top Left) Savannah Sparrow photographed by Willie D'Anna at Yates on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, (Left) Oregon Junco photographed by Willie D'Anna at Yates on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom Left) Lark Sparrow photographed by Jeanne Skelly at Yates on January 21<sup>st</sup>.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **March - June Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park** in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting) and see what is migrating! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com))

**Apr. 11: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Marcie Jacklin will discuss the results of the BOS October Count and David Gordon will discuss the results of the BOS Christmas Count.

**Apr. 15.: BOS Annual April Count.** All members are encouraged to participate in the Seventy-eighth count. Anyone interested should contact the compiler: Holly Sweeney (716-639-0158 or [holran171@verizon.net](mailto:holran171@verizon.net)).

**April 22. Braddock Bay Trip, for spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds.** This is our annual joint trip, with the Rochester Birding Assn (RBA), to the Braddock Bay hawk watch and surrounding area. We will meet to car pool at 7:30 am, Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. We will hit some birding hotspots on the way! If you plan to drive on your own, we will meet the RBA group at 9:30 am in the Braddock Bay Parking Lot. (Take route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway, and then take the exit for East Mantou Road/Braddock Bay Park). Leaders: BOS: David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)) and RBA: Bob Spahn, who will lead us to Monroe County birding hot spots.

**May 6: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for early warblers and migrants.** Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Joe Mitchell.

**May 9: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** (Speaker/Topic TBD).

**May 20: Sunday. BOS Annual May Bird Count. All members are encouraged to participate.** Anyone interested should contact the compiler. Compiler: Robert DeLeon (716-626-0325 or [rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com)).

**June 13: Wednesday.** The last meeting, the Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve (off Fuhrman Blvd), and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.



**Belted Kingfisher photographed Karen Lee Lewis in Buffalo on January 13th.**

Bill Weikert is offering a personal collection of birding literature to anyone interested. Included are THE KINGBIRD from 1996 - 2005, WINGING IT from 1994 - 2005, BIRDING from 1998 - 2005, BIRDER'S WORLD from 1991 - 2003 and PROTHONOTARY from 1993 to the present. All magazines are in good condition and would be very helpful to a beginning or experienced birder. If interested please contact Bill at [wwaikert@aol.com](mailto:wwaikert@aol.com) or 716-634-4680.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 78, No. 3 March 2012

### THE MONTH: February *Elizabeth Wells*

Mild winter weather continued into February, with temperatures averaging +5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the fourth consecutive month. This was the eighth warmest February of record; temperatures averaged 31.7 degrees, 5.4 degrees above normal. Lake Erie remained open; water temperature on the 29<sup>th</sup> was 34 degrees.

Precipitation was 1.72 inches, 0.77 inches below normal. Most of the month's snow fell on the 11<sup>th</sup> with 3.5 inches, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 3.3 inches, for a total of 9.6 inches for the month. Normal February snowfall is 17.3 inches.

Winds were 2.3 mph below the average of 12.9 mph, but low-pressure systems brought in some strong windstorms. A peak wind gust of 55 MPH was recorded at the airport on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five MPH or greater gusts were recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, fourteen days had winds to 35 MPH or more.

For the season, this winter is tied as fourth warmest at 32.5 degrees, with a total of 34.2 inches of snow (-35.8 inches), the fourth smallest amount since the 1943 move to the airport. With only 22 days of 1 inch or more snow cover, we are tied with the fourth fewest days in 119 years and second lowest since the move to the airport. Sixteen days were below freezing, with only four consecutive days, January 18-21. Average is 43 days below freezing.

Starting the month out nicely, Betsy Potter spotted twenty Bohemian Waxwings eating wild grapes with 43 smaller Cedar Waxwings on February 1 in Wilson-Tuscarora S.P. The only other reported February records were on the same day in 1978 in Hamburg, Foster et al, reported two and Andrie reported one.

Thousands of Snow Geese were reported along and in Lake Ontario February 4-13. This was unprecedented, as Snow Geese in these numbers tend fly east of Rochester. Discussions on Genesee Birds speculated

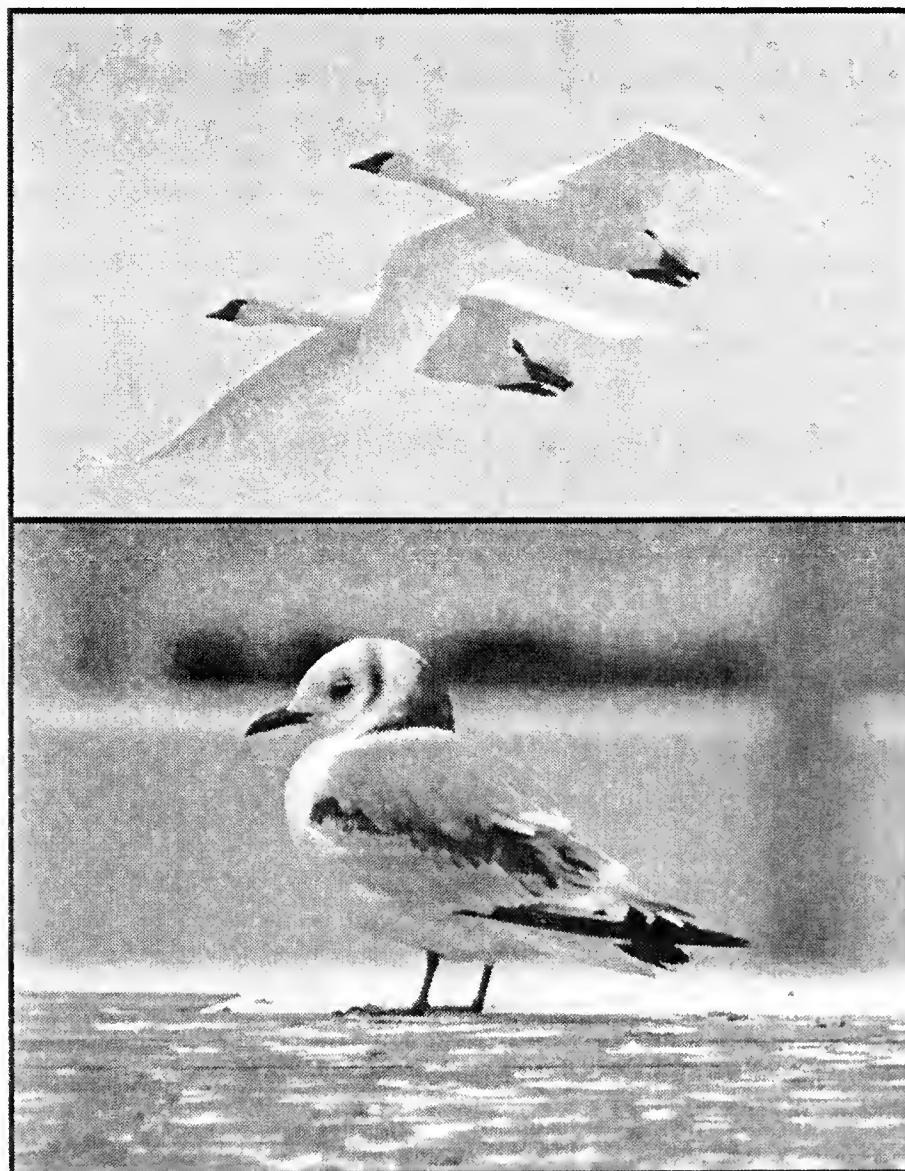
that there is now an overabundance of Snow Geese in the northwest (Gerry Rising). Bill Watson suggests this

- 21 **The Month**  
*Elizabeth Wells*
- 23 **Noteworthy Records**  
*Bruce Chilton & Statisticians*
- 28 **Calendar**



phenomenon may have arisen from weather patterns. Rochester winds were from the northeast averaging 5.1 mph while in Buffalo north winds averaged 3.2 mph. Bill concludes, these "...winds were strong enough and easterly enough to divert the Snow Geese west of Rochester, but as you approached Buffalo these favorable winds (for deflecting Snow Geese west) diminished."

On February 5, among the thousands of Snow Geese, Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki noticed a lone Cackling Goose. The smaller, darker goose appeared to



(Top) Trumpeter Swans photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Iroquois NWR on February 18<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Black-legged Kittiwake photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Erle Basin Marina on February 19<sup>th</sup>.



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

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be approximately 20% shorter in overall length, with a smaller beak than the Snow Geese. According to Bill, what was most notable about this sighting is "...this observation is historically important as it is only the second time that I found a Cackling Goose before Jim did when we were birding together."

A Brant was found by David Gordon in Lake Erie from Erie Basin Marina on February 28, 2012. The goose appeared to be a juvenile, the white "necklace" was not apparent. David describes, "...a small goose-like bird sitting on the water with long black neck and head with small bill. Bird's neck appeared solid black like a juvenile." He continues, the "Dark black head and neck clearly seen, dark grayish mantle with white rear and light underwing observable as it flew."

The last Brant seen was of a single goose, by F. Rew 23 years ago, in 1989 in Dunkirk Harbor. The only other February record was in 1981 by Schaffner off Grand Island.

Fish Crows remained in Fort Erie and sightings continued in to February. K. Roy saw 3 on February 5. Joshua D. Vandermeulen also had 3 February 9 west end of Bowen, where it ends at the Rio Vista Golf Course in Fort Erie. The Fish Crow's appearance is fully discussed by J. Pawlicki in the January 2012 issue of *The Prothonotary*.

Black Vultures were seen again, for the fourth month. On February 12<sup>th</sup> Willie D'Anna saw four on a cell tower on the old Frontier House in Lewiston, ¼ mile away from the vulture roost. He then saw another at the vulture roost along with 16 Turkey Vultures. The only previous record for the month was on February 29, 2000 at the Hamburg Hawk watch by F. Rew and R. Andrie.

Two Trumpeter Swans flew over Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, seen Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell on February 18<sup>th</sup>. They noted sloped bill with a little concavity at the top with little differentiation between eye and dark bill. The last reported February Trumpeter was the carcass found in 2009 by Morton and Berry in Cattaraugus County. J. Skalicky saw four at Buckhorn Island S.P. in 2002.

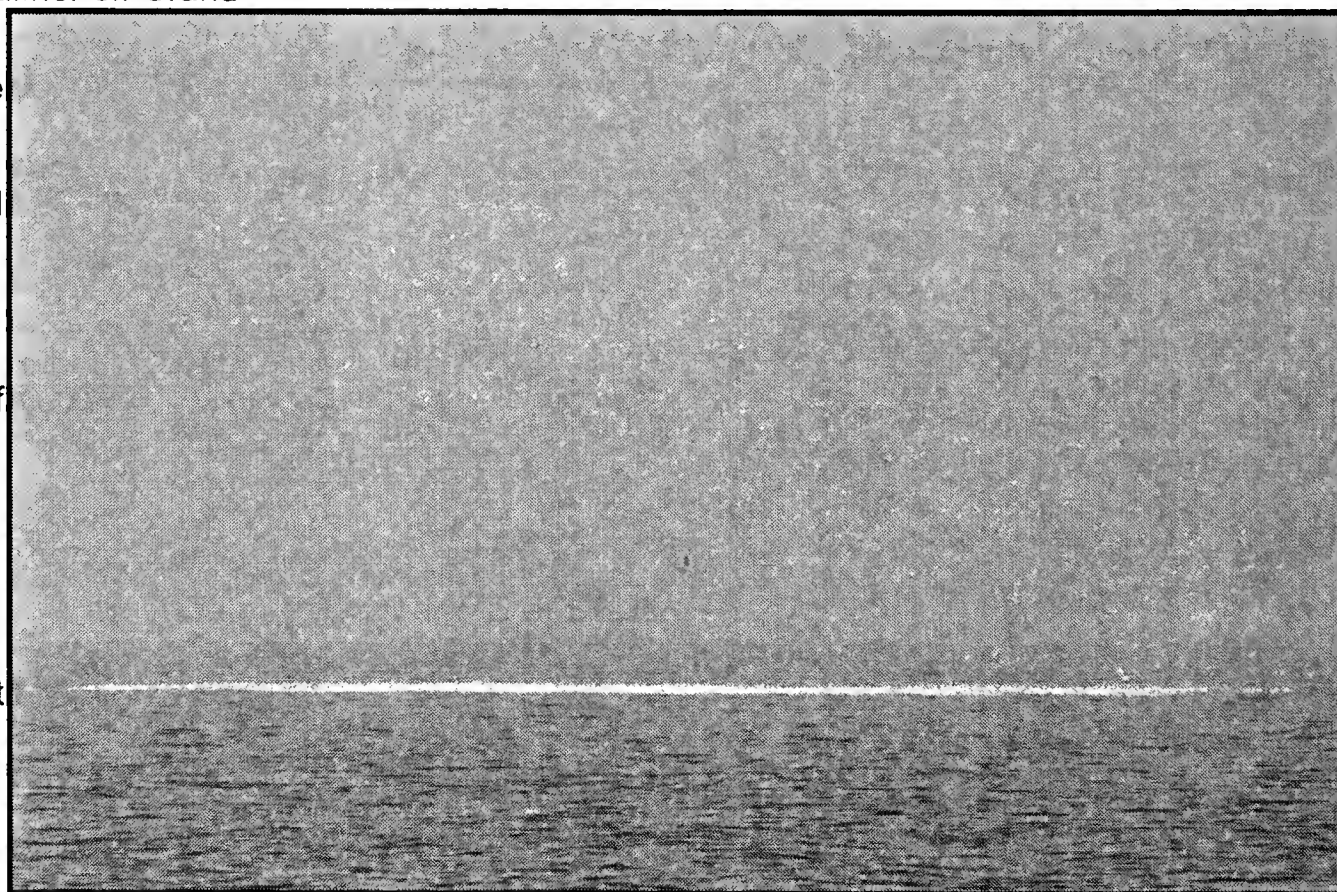
An adult California Gull was found Jim Pawlicki February 5<sup>th</sup> and again on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Devils Hole S. P., Niagara Falls. Its size was halfway between the Ring-billed Gulls and the Herring Gulls it was standing and sleeping among. The gull had an all yellow bill with small red and black spot near tip and white-tipped black primaries and white tail. Jim notes, "Regarding the subspecific identification, the "solid" mirror on P10 (with black band near tip), relatively small body size, and "compact" bill size and shape, and darkness of the mantle would suggest nominate *californicus*, although the presence of white tongue-tips and fairly long gray tongues on P5-P7 is more suggestive of *albertaensis*. Thus the combination of several features appears rather ambiguous and it is probably best that the bird remain unidentified with regards to subspecies." Most recent February sightings were both at Adam Beck Hydro in Ontario, in 2002 by W. D'Anna and in 1993 by Bellerby.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Jim Pawlicki observed an adult Thayer's Gull at the above location. Jim documented the bird with good photographs, shown on page 27. Do note that individuals of this species are NOT included in the official NOTEWORTHY RECORDS, however BOS statisticians will review well-documented records. (see "Special Note on Thayer's Gull" in current Date Guide)

Buffalo National Weather Service accessed from: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy RecordsDatabase: 1964-2011.

GeneseeBirds February 2012 <http://mail.geneseo.edu/mailman/listinfo/geneseebirds-l>



Snow Geese photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Shadigee (L. Ontario) on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

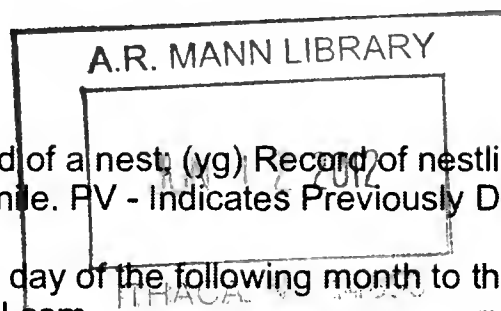
\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented



Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
G. White-front. Goose	29F	4	Shelby	Morien
Snow Goose	4F; 6	2700; 5000	Yates	Humann; Lazarczyk
"	5	<u>5650</u> ; 1900	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki; D'Anna
"	10	4000	Yates	Salembier
"	11	240	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	2000	Carlton	S&T O'Donnell
"	18	26	Pomfret	Mosher
"	25	175	Barre	Morien
* Brant	<u>28</u>	1	Erie Basin Marina	Gordon
Cackling Goose	<u>5</u>	1	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>26</u>	2	Knight's Beach (Ont)	Wormington
Mute Swan	1; 5	2; 10	Point Breeze	Mason; Yoerg et al
"	4	4	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	4	2	Olcott	Callaghan
"	5	1	Carlton	Watson
"	6; 9	3; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Watson et al
"	10	2	Lyndonville	Salembier
"	20; 26	2; 2	Port Weller (Ont)	Yoerg et al; Salembier
* <u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	18	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Tundra Swan	19	64	Tonawanda	Salembier
"	20	168	Beaver I. SP	Humann
"	20F; 27	9; 186	Iroquois NWR	Walters; Salembier
"	27; 29	50; 73	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante; Humann
"	28	88	Alexander	Beattie
* Wood Duck	26F	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	27	2	Royalton	Salembier
Gadwall	4	6	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	6	7	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	8, 19; 10	3, 14; 4	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Hess
"	29	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
American Wigeon	1F	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	3	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	4; 25	15; 32	Oak Orchard WMA	Mitchell; Morien
"	4; 21	8; 18	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Morien
American Black Duck	3; 4	48; 42	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	4; 5	27; 125	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Mitchell
"	4	57	Yates	Callaghan
"	26	38	Port Weller (Ont)	Salembier
"	29	37	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Mallard	3; 4	1669; 875	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Northern Shoveler	4; 7	6; 7	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Mitchell
"	5F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26	2	Fredonia	Goetz
"	28	3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Northern Pintail	3F	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	4; 5	23; 100	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Mitchell
"	4; 21	28; 27	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	20	Fredonia	Goetz
"	28	29	Alexander	Beattie
Green-winged Teal	4	2	Point Breeze	Guthrie, Tetlow
"	12F	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake(Ont)	Wormington
Canvasback	8	2600	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	28	720	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	28	375	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
Redhead	2, 28	50, 202	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	3	15	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	8	70	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	7; 28	6; 7	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Hess; Watson
"	9	3	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	13	1	Point Breeze	S&T O'Donnell
"	18	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	25F	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	26	2	Fredonia	Goetz
Greater Scaup	2	6800	Erie Basin Marina, Bflo.	Watson
"	28	490	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Lesser Scaup	3F; 4	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	17; 19; 23	5; 6; 23	Tonawanda	Hess; Salembier; Watson
"	25	200	Chippawa (Ont)	Wormington
King Eider	4	1 ad m	Port Weller (Ont)	Ahara, Beal
"	8 - 20	1 ad m	Port Weller (Ont)	Many observers
Harlequin Duck	13; 25	2; 3	Goat I.	Yoerg; Callaghan
Surf Scoter	1, 8	2, 1	Point Breeze	Tetlow
"	18	1 imm m	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Goetz
Black Scoter	2	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4; 5	2; 1	Point Breeze	Tetlow; Yoerg et al
"	19	1	Jordan Harbour (Ont)	Jacklin, Law
"	19	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Horsts
Long-tailed Duck	2	100	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	5	80	Yates	Watson
Bufflehead	2	150	Tonawanda	Watson
Common Goldeneye	4	35	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	27	36	Point Breeze	Morien
"	29	190	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	2	6	Tifft NP	Watson
"	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	8; 24	15; 14	Grand I.	Watson; Hess
"	9	13	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	26	32	North Tonawanda	Watson
Common Merganser	8	375	Grand I.	Watson
"	11	150	Port Weller (Ont)	Morien
"	19	11	Carroll	Berry
Red-br. Merganser	2	1800	Erie Basin Marina, Bflo.	Watson
Ruddy Duck	7, 10	1, 1	N. River, Grand I.	Sharon
"	18	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher et al
"	25	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
* Ruffed Grouse	14	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
Red-throated Loon	5	1	Yates	Watson
"	5	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	4	Point Breeze	Tetlow
Common Loon	20	1	Pot Weller (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Grebe	5	23	Golden Hill SP	Morien
"	27	43	Point Breeze	Morien
Red-necked Grebe	5	12	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5; 27	3; 6	Point Breeze	Yoerg; Morien
"	9	1	Niag.-on-the Lake (Ont)	Vandermeulen
"	27	6	Point Breeze	Morien
D.-crested Cormorant	19	7	Lewiston	D Mitchell
Great Blue Heron	3; 26, 27	26; 31, 49	Motor I.	Hess; Watson
"	13; 19	32; 21	Strawberry I.	Watson; Salembier
"	20	35	Beaver I. SP	Humann

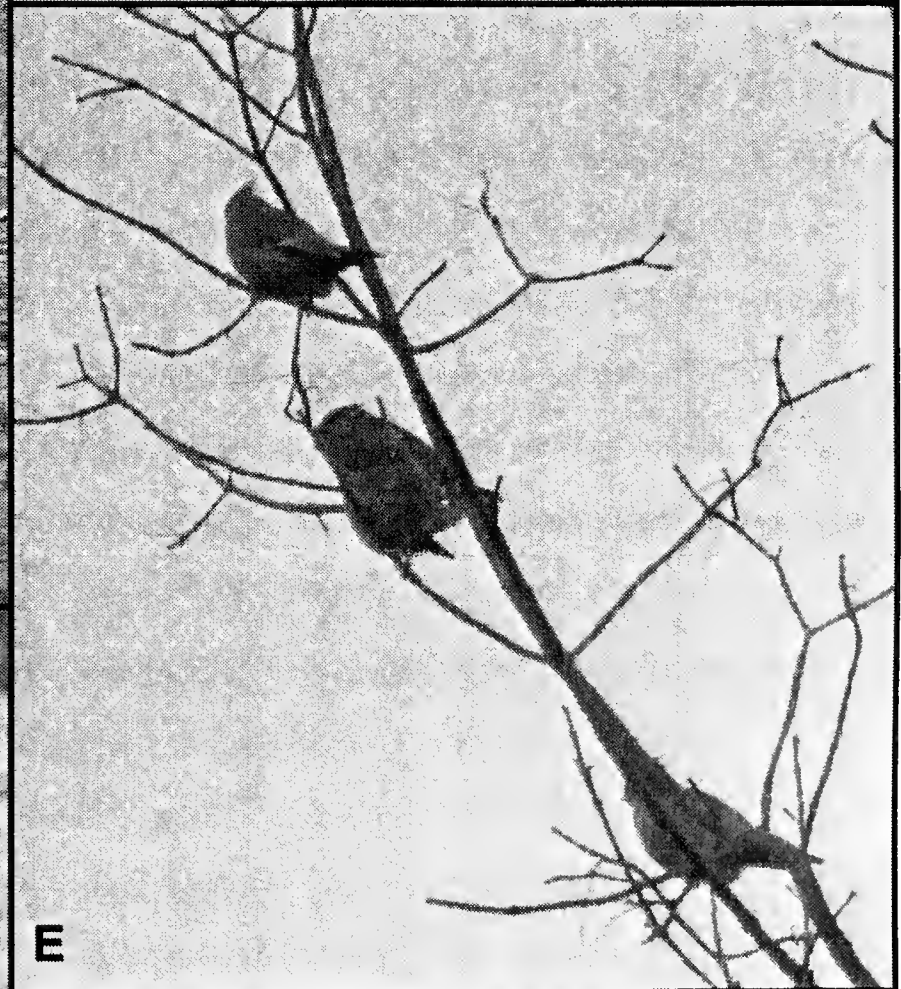


<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Black-cr. Night-Heron	26	2	Port Weller (Ont)	Salembier
<u>Black Vulture</u>	12	5	Lewiston	D'Anna
Turkey Vulture	1F	2	Fredonia	Goetz
"	8	1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki
"	9	2	Queenston (Ont)	Several observers
"	12	16	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	13	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	13	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	13	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	13	1	Grand Island	Sharon
Bald Eagle	15; 18	5; 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Mosher
	2 - 27	1 - 3	BOS territory	7 other records
Northern Harrier	4	2	Yates	Humann
"	9 - 28	1 - 4	Alexander	Beattie
"	10; 25	5; 1	Shelby	Salembier; Morien
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	2	Busti	Berry
"	7-27	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	22	1	Allegany SP	Marino
Red-tailed Hawk	26	13	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1	South Dayton	Goetz
"	19	1	Basom	Morien
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
Merlin	7	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	9	1	Lewiston	Vandermeulen
"	9	1	Porter	Fell
"	15	1	Evans	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	1;19	1; 1	Buffalo	Humann; Pawlicki, Horsts
"	2	1	Gallagher Beach, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	8, 17, 28	2, 1, 2	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	20	1	S. Grand I. bridge	Humann
"	20	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	BonEnfant, Jacklin et al
"	29	1	N. Grand I. bridge	Humann
American Coot	9	113	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	15; 23	33; 38	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon; Fell
"	26	16	Port Weller (Ont)	Salembier
Black-leg. Kittiwake	19	1 juv	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki, Horsts
Bonaparte's Gull	8	5000	Niagara River, Buffalo	Morien
Black-headed Gull	3-5	1	Niagara River, Buffalo	Lawrence, Fell
Little Gull	10; 25	4; 10	Queenston (Ont)	Lawrence; Wormington
"	13	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	5	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>California Gull</u>	5, 8	1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki
Herring Gull	3; 4	830; 350	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Iceland Gull	12	35	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Wormington
"	13	1	Goat I.	Yoerg
"	13	14	Robert Moses SP	Pawlicki
"	19	1	Squaw I.	Salembier
"	23	1	Donnelly's Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	1	Erie Basin Marina, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	12; 13	8; 6	Goat I.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	13	1	Devils Hole SP	Yoerg
"	21	7	Niagara Falls	Morien
Glaucous Gull	3	3	Goat I.	Fox
"	9	1 imm	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Vandermeulen
"	18	2	Porter	Pawlicki
"	19	1	Tonawanda	Salembier
Great Black-b. Gull	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	15	462	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
Snowy Owl	1 - 22	1	Yates	Mason, Beattie et al
"	2	1	Erie Basin Marina, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	3	1	Vineland (Ont)	Smith

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1 dead	Lewiston	Carlson
"	11; 19	1; 1	Port Weller (Ont)	Morien; Frid et al
"	26	4	Niagara Falls Airport	Rosenburg
"	26	1	St.Catharines Airpt (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Roy
* Long-eared Owl	5	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-eared Owl	3	1	Lockport	Callaghan, Morse
"	4; 10	1; 1	Yates	Sharon; S&T O'Donnell
"	10; 22	6; 2	Shelby	Salembier; Morien
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Callaghan
Northern Shrike	3-10	1	BOS territory	15 records
<u>Fish Crow</u>	5	3	Fort Erie Ont)	Roy
"	9	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Vandermeulen et al
American Crow	27	2000	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Fell
Common Raven	19	1	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Salembier
Horned Lark	1	26	Yates	Mason, Beattie
"	18	10	Pomfret	Mosher
"	20	297	Albion	Morien
Carolina Wren	7	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	10; 20	1; 2	Beaver I. SP	Hess; Humann
"	16	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	25	1	Eden	Andrle
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Eastern Bluebird	3	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	8	Lancaster	Morgante
"	18	5	Pomfret	Mosher
"	26	5	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	2	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	22	1	Yates	Morien
Bohemian Waxwing	1	20	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Orange-cr. Warbler	3	1	Goat I.	Fox
Yellow-r. Warbler	14, 16	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	17	3	Chautauqua Institute	Berry
* Eastern Towhee	7 - 15	1 m	Salamanca (f)	Baird
"	11,13; 18	1	Bethany	Beattie; Morien, Beattie
White-cr. Sparrow	8	3	Medina	Morien
"	11,16,17	1	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	11; 18	3; 2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter; Genter
"	12	1	Lyndonville	Callaghan, Morien
Snow Bunting	1	50	Yates	Mason, Beattie
Red-w. Blackbird	9F	4	Eden	Mitchell,Pawlicki,Watson
"	11	5	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	5	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	9	Tifft NP	Fell
"	20	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	26	4	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Common Grackle	17F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	24	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	26	4	Wilson	Goodman
"	28	8	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	28	15	Clarence	Morgante
"	28	3	Fredonia	Goetz
Brown-head. Cowbird	12	35	Alden	Young
"	15	150	Grand I.	Sharon
"	19	125	Basom	Morien
Purple Finch	3	2	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
White-w. Crossbill	4	1	Porter	Potter, D'Anna
"	4	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Callaghan
"	5	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	1	Point Breeze	Tetlow
Common Redpoll	5	10	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	8	Point Breeze	Tetlow
"	10	20	Devils Hole SP	Lawrence
"	12	30	Newfane	Morien
"	20	1 m & 2 f	Depew	M Barber

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pine Siskin	12	1	Lockport	Callaghan
"	24	20	East Aurora	Holmes
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: (note: American Goldfinch missed in summary for January)				124
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month:				009
<b>Total for the year 2012:</b>				<b><u>133</u></b>
* <u>Thayer's Gull</u>	8	1	Devils Hole SP	Pawlicki

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(A, B) Thayer's Gull (arrows) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Devil's Hole SP on February 8<sup>th</sup>, (C) California Gull photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Devil's Hole SP on February 5<sup>th</sup>, (D) Fish Crow photographed by Joshua Vandermuelen at Ft. Erie on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and (E) Bohemian Waxwings photographed by Betsy Potter at Wilson-Tuscarora SP on February 7<sup>th</sup>.





**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **June - November Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**June 13: Wednesday.** The last meeting, the Annual June Picnic will be held at Tift Nature Preserve (off Fuhrman Blvd), and followed by a short field trip of Tift Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

**July 21: Saturday. Jamestown Audubon bird banding demonstration at 10 AM. Breakfast will be offered (\$5) on a first-come first-serve basis.** In thanks for a BOS Special Projects Grant to assist with the Jamestown Audubon MAPS bird banding research, BOS members and friends are invited to visit the bird banding station at Jamestown Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 1600 Riverside Rd., Jamestown, NY on Saturday, July 21 at 10:00 AM. Licensed bander Emily Thomas, and summer interns, will be mist-netting and banding birds from 7 am to noon at the Pavilion Field on the west side of the Audubon property. There is no formal BOS leader for this trip. Those planning to attend may e-mail or call the center ([info@jamestownaudubon.org](mailto:info@jamestownaudubon.org) or 716-569-2345) with questions or to confirm that they will be banding if the weather is in question. In case of rain, banding will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 22. Directions and more information can be found on their website: <http://www.jamestownaudubon.org>.

**July 29: Sunday. Canada shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Aug. 19: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.** This is a half-day count along the northern shore of Lake Erie. If you are interested in participating, call Lynne Landon, compiler, at 716-745-9129 or email at [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu). All

members are encouraged to participate.

**Aug. 26: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Sept. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night.** Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Oct. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will present "Gull Watching at Niagara and in Ontario."

**Oct. 14: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Nov. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

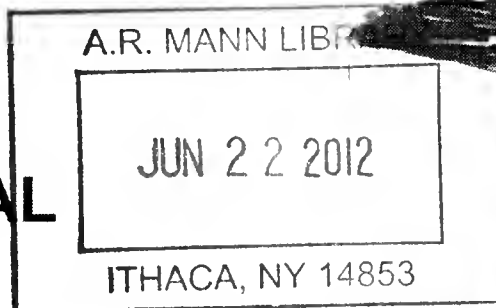


**Greater White-fronted Geese photographed by Morien at Shelby on February 29<sup>th</sup>.**

# The Prothonotary

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2012

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 78, No. 4 April 2012

### THE MONTH: March

*Tim Baird*

A year ago in this spot, I was lamenting that the March 2011 weather extended an excessively snowy winter into what should have been spring. I cannot but marvel at the turn of events March 2012 brought by comparison. Our winter this year was mild, and March intensified the trend.

The average temperature for the month was 47.4° F; an amazing 13.4° above average. In fact, the March average was higher than the average April temperature. In Buffalo on the 21<sup>st</sup>, a reading of 82° set a March record besting the previous record high of 81° set in March of 1945. Due to a ridge of high pressure stalled over the eastern United States from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we experienced a near summerlike period with temperatures 30 to 35° above average. Lake Erie's temperature peaked at 41°, the warmest March temperature ever and the only time the lake's water has reached or exceeded 40° in March.

Precipitation for March was over one inch below average including a paltry snowfall total of 1.5 inches (11.4 inches below normal). The exceptional warmth and abundant sunshine raised concern over a premature flowering of fruit trees that could then experience damage to the forming fruit from later frosts. March 2012 was a superlative month on most levels when weather is considered. The science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein wrote, "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get." Few of us expected what we got in March.

We know that weather impacts spring bird movements. The migration noted at our hawk watches can be very weather dependent. Turkey Vulture numbers dominate the hawk watch results in March. Based on a weather comparison, one might expect this March would have been more favorable to Turkey Vulture migration than last year. However, the vulture totals recorded at the Hamburg and Ripley hawk watches this March (5,541 and 6042, respectively), while slightly above the ten year average at the sites, were significantly below the March 2011 totals. In 2011, 7316 Turkey Vultures were counted at Hamburg and 8891 at Ripley. What role did the weather contribute toward fewer Turkey Vultures this year than last? A similar comparison in raptor numbers at the hawk watches was not so obviously different between this and last year (comparison data available at <http://www.hmana.org>).

Cackling Geese reports were regionally scattered throughout the wetlands in the townships south of Lake Ontario.

#### 29 The Month

*Tim Baird*

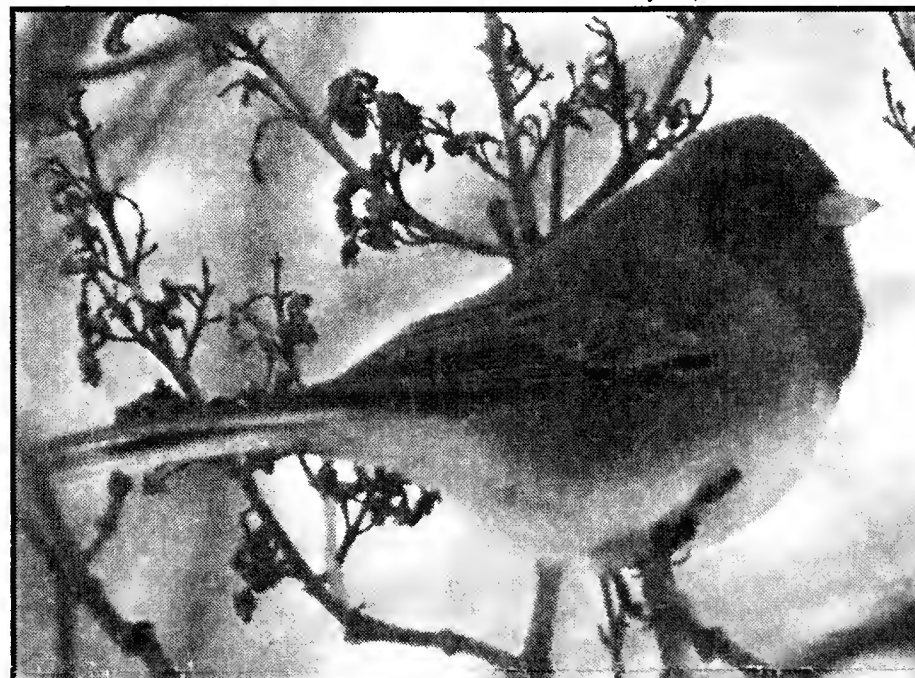
#### 31 Noteworthy Records

*Bruce Chilton & Statisticians*

#### 36 Calendar

Trumpeter Swans are becoming a regularly observed species. Careful observation and notation of Trumpeter Swan

characteristics are required for separating them from the quite similar, and more common, Tundra Swan. Probably not surprising, but the nearly 9500 Canada Geese reported by Morien at Iroquois NWR on March 6<sup>th</sup> is certainly noteworthy. Eurasian Wigeon reports included single birds from Iroquois NWR by Morien et.al. and from Oak Orchard by Yoerg and Mitchell et.al. Large numbers of Common Goldeneye were observed at Fort Erie by Morien and Gordon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Young on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant ponds continue to be the Mecca for several duck species in western New York. This was well illustrated by Spahn's and



(Top) Oregon Junco (*J. h. oregonus*) photographed by Lee at Welland, Ontario on March 12<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Common Raven photographed by Tim Baird in Salamanca on the April 14<sup>th</sup> BOS Count.



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazi

#### Society Officers:

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Fox's reports of a few hundred Ruddy Ducks in late March.

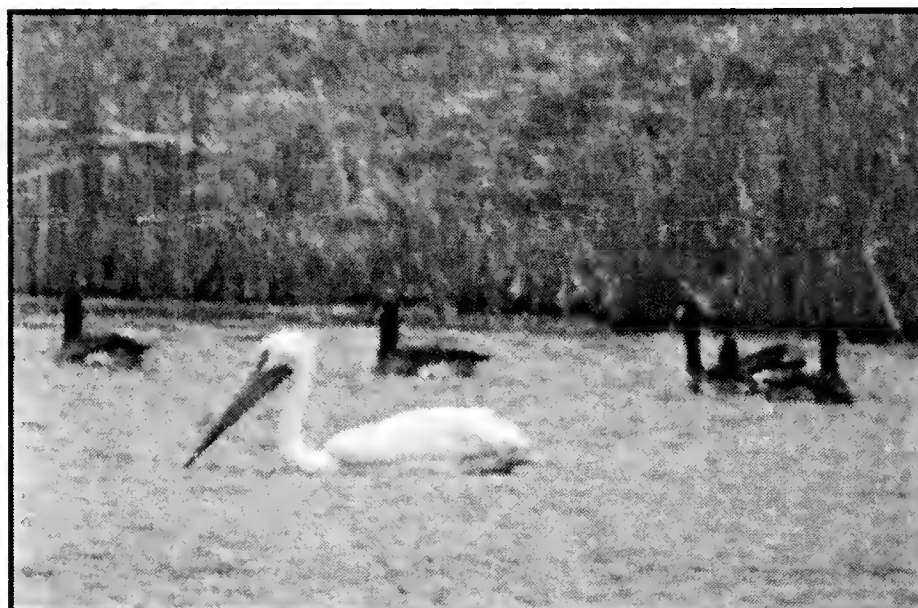
Sandhill Cranes, like Trumpeter Swans, continue their spring appearance in western New York and probably are building to a future nesting presence here. Red-necked Grebes were well represented this month including a maximum of 214 reported on Lake Ontario observed from Golden Hill State Park by D'Anna on March 18<sup>th</sup>. A single American White Pelican visited Oak Orchard WMA on the 28<sup>th</sup> and was verified by Morien and Mitchell. Mitchell's photograph of this bird clearly showed the plate on the upper bill denoting an adult in breeding condition. Double-crested Cormorants, Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are nesting on the small island near the grounded barge in the Canadian rapids above Niagara Falls. Watson reported 23 Great Egrets and 5 nests at Niagara Falls on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Both species of yellowlegs appeared slightly earlier than usual. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Iroquois NWR was over a week early and documented on the 18<sup>th</sup> by several observers. A Long-billed Dowitcher located at Iroquois NWR was a first for March in the B.O.S. region and only the third verified spring record. This bird was verified by Morien and D'Anna and reported by others. Dowitcher sightings are always an identification challenge. D'Anna's report included several photographs showing identification characters for this species such as: bill shape, a hunch-backed profile, and subtle plumage characteristics including barring on the flanks, and narrow white bars on the central tail feathers (see ID field marks on photograph, page 36). His report illustrates nicely the necessity for careful observation and detailed analysis of characteristics in combination with photographs as a basis for a reliable identification of some challenging species.

Our passerine migrants can ill afford to be fooled by nice weather in late winter or early spring as an early arrival can be ruined by a swing to more normal conditions. With that in mind, our passerines likely put more stock in timing of the season than in current weather conditions. One vanguard of the passerine migration is the Eastern Phoebe. Mitchell's observation of a phoebe on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Alden is only one day shy of our Verification Date Guide's limiting date. On the other hand, Sweeney's observation of a singing Marsh Wren on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Tonawanda WMA is over a month earlier than the Verification Date Guide's limiting date. The wetland habitat may supply more consistent conditions for available food that the

wren can exploit should inclement weather occur. With the wren excepted, most other passerine migrants made their appearance about as expected.

Galas and Watson's verifications of a Common Raven in Tonawanda likely illustrate the continuing expansion of this species away from its forested stronghold in the southern tier and its increasing tolerance for human related disturbances. A Yellow-throated Warbler seen late in the month at Forest Lawn Cemetery by Salembier and Callaghan is still a rare find in the region, and this bird set an early record and a first for March. A Pine Warbler in Wilson on the 19<sup>th</sup> reported by Morse was somewhat early. An Oregon Junco visited Welland for ten days beginning on the 6<sup>th</sup> and was photographed by Lee. The DeLeons' report of over 1000 Rusty Blackbirds at Tonawanda WMA on the 18<sup>th</sup> is very encouraging in light of the current concern about this species' decline. Might the early spring have influenced this Rusty Blackbird congregation?



(Top) American White Pelican photographed by Joe Mitchell at Oak Orchard WMA on March 28<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Yellow-throated Warbler photographed by Callaghan at Forest Lawn Cemetery on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

It might be premature to link regional weather variance to climate change, but March 2012 brought us unusual and unexpected weather conditions. Documented records such as the B.O.S. data base are an invaluable tool to aid in the understanding of bird population trends in an environment in flux. An understanding of what is happening to birds will ultimately lead to a better understanding of what the impact on humans may be.

I am grateful to Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising for reviewing this article.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
G. White-front. Goose	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	10	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	12	4	Shelby	Callaghan, Morien
Snow Goose	2	55	Shelby	Callaghan
"	6	300	Yates	Potter
"	7	15	Lancaster	Barczykowski
Cackling Goose	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	2; 11; 17	3; 4; 5	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al; D'Anna et al
"	7	2	Hartland	D'Anna
"	7; 18	6; 7	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien; Yoerg
"	7, 10	5, 1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	9	1	Alexander	Dart
"	9; 17	10; 1	Oakfield	Morien; Fox
Canada Goose	6	9488	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Mute Swan	4	1	Joseph Davis SP	Morien
"	11	2	Wilson Pier	Sharon
"	20; 31	2	Golden Hill SP	Sharon; Morien
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	10	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	14	2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Tundra Swan	6; 10	217; 542	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	7	211	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	11	903	Shelby	Morien
Wood Duck	21	48	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Gadwall	17	100	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	31	37	Niagara Falls	Watson
* Eurasian Wigeon	<u>15F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
"	<u>18; 20</u>	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg; Mitchell et al
American Wigeon	15; 17	650; 600	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Fox
"	15	660	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	17	211	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Blue-winged Teal	11F	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	12	26	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	1	Tift NP	Young
Northern Shoveler	17; 21	115; 121	Iroquois NWR	Humann; Morien
"	29; 31	70; 60	Batavia WWTP	Spahn; Fox
Northern Pintail	2; 10	234; 123	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	7	69	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	10	152	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Green-winged Teal	21, 29	61, 73	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	18	85	Elba Mucklands	Fox
Canvasback	2; 16; 24	1; 5; 5	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell; Fox
"	11; 17	1; 4	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Humann, Fell
Redhead	1F; 11; 17	6; 30; 20	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Carlson; Fox
"	9	2	Wethersfield	Fox
"	12; 13	22; 16	Batavia WWTP	Callaghan; Beattie
"	25	12	S. Dayton	Mitchell
Ring-necked Duck	2; 29	19; 400	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Wasilco

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	2; 29	23; 175	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Spahn
"	26	86	Bethany	Beattie
"	31	422	Tonawanda WMA	Gordon
Lesser Scaup	2	83	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morien, Gordon
"	2; 29	3; 80	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Spahn
Harlequin Duck	31	2	Niagara Falls	Watson
Black Scoter	20	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
Long-tailed Duck	11	2	Oakfield	Callaghan et al
"	11	100	Lewiston	Morgante et al
"	14	4	Red House Lake	Miles
"	15	5	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Bufflehead	2	227	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morien, Gordon
"	29; 31	50; 75	Batavia WWTP	Spahn; Fox
Common Goldeneye	2; 14	1850; 1500	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morien, Gordon; Young
Red-br. Merganser	2	175	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morien, Gordon
"	25	4	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
"	31	190	Niagara Falls	Watson
Ruddy Duck	10; 29	2; 20	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Morien
"	29; 31	300; 226	Batavia WWTP	Spahn; Fox
Red-throated Loon	18	81	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
Common Loon	25F	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	25F	1	Shadigee	Morien, D'Anna et al
Pied-billed Grebe	10; 29	1; 13	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Watson
Horned Grebe	11	1	Oakfield	Callaghan et al
"	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Carlson et al
"	18	52	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	25	14	S. Dayton	Mitchell
Red-necked Grebe	7	18	Somerset	D'Anna
"	16	77	Wilson	D'Anna
"	17	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	18; 25	214; 32	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna; Morien
"	25	17	Shadigee	Morien
"	29; 31	1	Batavia WWTP	Spahn; Fox
* <u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	28	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien, Mitchell et al
D.-crested Cormorant	11	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
"	18F	3	Tonawanda WMA	Fox
"	22; 24	1; 10	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan; Fraun
"	30	173	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	31	74	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Great Blue Heron	13,21,29	23, 48, 87	Motor I.	Watson
* Great Egret	16F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	24	3	Grand I.	Humann
"	28	23	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	31	23 + 5n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	4	1	Niagara Falls	Sucy
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Fell
"	31	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	25; 31	20; 52	Niagara Falls (Ont)	S. Mitchell; Watson
Black Vulture	7	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Turkey Vulture	18, 21	1006, 1117	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
"	20, 27	1382, 732	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
* Osprey	<u>17F; 18</u>	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien al; Morgante
"	<u>21</u>	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	1 ad + n	Oakfield	Watson
"	29	3 ad + 2 n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29	3 ad + 2 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	31	2 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	6	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	10	1 imm+1 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21; 29	4; 2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
"	29	2 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	31	2 +2 yg + n	Navy I.	Watson
Northern Harrier	1, 7	3, 5	Alexander	Dart, Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	2, 6	4, 5	Shelby	Morien
* Northern Goshawk	<u>14F</u>	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Watson
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	1	Alden Town Park	Mitchell
"	9; 10	1; 20	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau; Watson
"	14, 15	29, 24	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
Red-tailed Hawk	2; 27	42; 58	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau et al; Zebehazy
"	18	52	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
Rough-legged Hawk	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
"	27	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
"	31	1	Barker	Morien et al
Golden Eagle	<u>11F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
"	14	1	Middleport	Ewald
Merlin	15	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Humann
"	28	1	Buffalo	Humann
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Grand I. north bridge	Humann
"	2	1	UB south campus	Morien, Gordon
"	7	1	Cent. Terminal, Bflo.	Salembier
American Coot	17; 29	200; 237	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Morien
* Sandhill Crane	17	2	Iroquois NWR	Humann; Sharon
"	<u>18</u>	2	Iroquois NWR	R&D DeLeon
"	23	2	Hamburg	Mitchell
* Killdeer	1F	1	Shelby	Morien
* Greater Yellowlegs	<u>12F</u> ; 17, 23	1; 4, 14	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan; Sharon
* Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>18F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante, R&D DeLeon, Salembier
"	25; 29	1; 8	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al; Watson
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	24 - 29	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
* Wilson's Snipe	11F	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	16	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	17	3	Sherkston (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	31	9	Hartland	Morien
* American Woodcock	4F	1	Alden	Young
"	7	1	Shelby	Morien
"	17	4	Grand I.	Humann
Bonaparte's Gull	18; 24	2; 3	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Frauen
"	25	16	Oakfield	Fox
"	26	18	Lancaster	Morgante
"	30	1200	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Little Gull	11; 28	6; 7	Lewiston	Morgante; Hess
Iceland Gull	24	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	9	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11; 25	1; 5	Goat I.	Morgante; S. Mitchell
"	31	3	Niagara Falls	Watson
Glaucous Gull	4, 8	1	Buffalo	Fell
Snowy Owl	4; 11	6; 4	Niagara Falls Airport	Rosenburg; Morgante
"	15	1	Springville	Fehringer
* Barred Owl	11	2	South Valley	G&R Lazarczyk
"	22	3	French Creek	G&R Lazarczyk
Short-eared Owl	6, 21	2, 1	Shelby	Morien
"	10, 20	7, 4	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	10	2	N. Collins	Francisco
"	15	1	Lockport	Callaghan et al
"	18	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
* Nor. Saw-whet Owl	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Red-headed Wdpckr.	14	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Morien et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	28F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Young
"	29	1	Alden	Mitchell
* Eastern Phoebe	<u>15F</u>	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	16	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	J Landau
"	16	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	16	1	Bethany	Beattie



<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Shrike	4	1	Cherry Creek	Mitchell
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	11, 18	1, 1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	17	2	Iroquois NWR	Humann
"	29	1	Lancaster	Mitchell
Common Raven	11	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	23,24,25	1, 1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	23; 29	1	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Galas; Watson
* Tree Swallow	9F	1	UB ponds, Amherst	Salembier
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14; 29	25; 75	Tonawanda WMA	Sharon; Wasilco
Brown Creeper	25	19	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Salembier
Carolina Wren	2, 30	1, 2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	17	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	18	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	24	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
Winter Wren	19F	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Callaghan
"	20	1	Attica	Fox
* Marsh Wren	<u>18</u>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Sweeney
Golden-cr. Kinglet	15F	2	Wilson	Potter
"	25	15	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
* Gray Catbird	10	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Jablonski
Northern Mockingbird	12	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Watson
* American Pipit	17F	2	Attica	Morgante
* Pine Warbler	<u>19</u>	3	Wilson	Morse
"	27	3	Wales	Lawrence
Yellow-r. Warbler	12	1	Golden Hill SP	Purcell
"	18	3	Iroquois NWR	R&D DeLeon
"	20	1	Ward	Brooks
"	30	3	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	25, 31	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Salembier
"	25 - 30	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Callaghan
Eastern Towhee	4F, 10	1, 1	Majors Park, Aurora	Crowell; Holmes
"	10, 31	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
* Chipping Sparrow	18F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Callaghan et al
"	19	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Callaghan
Field Sparrow	15F	1	Alden	Young
"	24	1	Alabama	Morien
"	26	2	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Humann
* Vesper Sparrow	31F	2	Yates	K Landau, Wojewodzki
Savannah Sparrow	29F	1	Orchard Park	Tuck
* Fox Sparrow	20F; 25	2; 9	Tifft NP	Yoerg; Salembier
"	20	1	Porter	Genter et al
"	21; 25	3; 2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan; Salembier
"	23,25,26	1	Wilson	Potter
Song Sparrow	17	53	Iroquois NWR	Humann
Swamp Sparrow	14F	2	Tillman Road WMA	Young
"	17	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Fell
White-cr. Sparrow	24	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	31	1	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	6 - 16	1	Welland (Ont)	Lee
Lapland Longspur	26	70	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Red-w. Blackbird	7	325	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	12	946	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Eastern Meadowlark	11F	4	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	11F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
* Rusty Blackbird	2F	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	10	3	Tifft NP	Fell
"	18	> 1000	Tonawanda WMA	R&D DeLeon

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	250	Basom	Gordon
Purple Finch	12; 19	1; 4	Wilson	D'Anna; Morien
"	21	2 fem	Grimsby (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	25	3	Clarence	Morgante
"	26	4	Bethany	Beattie
White-wing. Crossbill	23	1	Forest Lawn Cem. Bflo.	Fell, Callaghan
Common Redpoll	14	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	40	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
Pine Siskin	14	5	Alden	Mitchell
"	19, 26	2, 2	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	22	3	Shelby	Morien
"	27	2	Burt	Morien
"	31	3	Lockport	Jones

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:	133
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month:	027
<b>Total for the year 2012:</b>	<b><u>160</u></b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

### **Statisticians' Note Regarding Hybrid Goose:**

We received a report and photograph of a hybrid goose from Celeste Morien and Corey Callaghan that was observed at Mallard Overlook of Iroquois NWR on March 13, 2012. Corey sent a photo (below) to eBird and was notified that the staff reviewers thought it was a Ross's Goose x Canada Goose hybrid. We also feel it's an apparent hybrid but cannot be certain of parental identity. Celeste's notes indicated: "the goose had a completely white neck and head, brownish gray wings that matched a Canada Goose and white flanks that were mottled with dark feathers. In fact I wondered if this was a Snow x Greater White-fronted because of the look of the flanks reminding me of dark striations. The rump was also white. The bill was pinkish and small although I thought not quite as small as a Ross's. The bill was definitely not that of a Snow Goose, since there was no grin patch. I didn't write down any notes about the feet. The size of this bird was less than all the surrounding Canada Geese, but not as small as a Ross's. I thought the size was that of a Snow Goose."



### **Statisticians' Note Regarding Hybrids:**

Only two 'named hybrids' are included in the B.O.S. Verification Date Guide: "Brewster's" Warbler and "Lawrence's" Warbler, which are both well-documented hybrids of Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler. We occasionally receive reports of other hybrid birds, sometimes accompanied by a verification report. Some hybrids occur regularly enough to include in the noteworthy records without verification such as American Black Duck x Mallard and Glaucous x Herring Gull. However, in most cases we are unable to judge with a high degree of certainty whether the reported lineage of the hybrid is accurate (with or without a verification report and photos). In the past we have included some of these records below the main noteworthy records, often accompanied with the words possible, probable, presumed or putative because we really cannot be certain. After all, it took a DNA test to identify the parentage of the famous "Junkin's Warbler" and had anyone guessed at the identification based on the bird's appearance, he or she likely would not have considered Mourning x Kentucky Warbler. We have decided that, from now on, to report these hybrids with a Statisticians' Note following the noteworthy records. This will allow readers of The Prothonotary to get a description (and photo when available) of the reported hybrid without our 'accepting' or 'not accepting' the merits of a specific identification.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **July - November Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**July 21: Saturday. Jamestown Audubon bird banding demonstration at 10 AM. Breakfast will be offered (\$5) on a first-come first-serve basis.** In thanks for a BOS Special Projects Grant to assist with the Jamestown Audubon MAPS bird banding research, BOS members and friends are invited to visit the bird banding station at Jamestown Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 1600 Riverside Rd., Jamestown, NY on Saturday, July 21 at 10:00 AM. Licensed bander Emily Thomas, and summer interns, will be mist-netting and banding birds from 7 am to noon at the Pavilion Field on the west side of the Audubon property. There is no formal BOS leader for this trip. Those planning to attend may e-mail or call the center ([info@jamestownaudubon.org](mailto:info@jamestownaudubon.org) or 716-569-2345) with questions or to confirm that they will be banding if the weather is in question. In case of rain, banding will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 22. Directions and more information can be found on their website: <http://www.jamestownaudubon.org>.

**July 29: Sunday. Canada shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Aug. 19: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.** This is a half-day count along the northern shore of Lake Erie. If you are interested in participating, call Lynne Landon, compiler, at 716-745-9129 or email at [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu). All members are encouraged to participate.

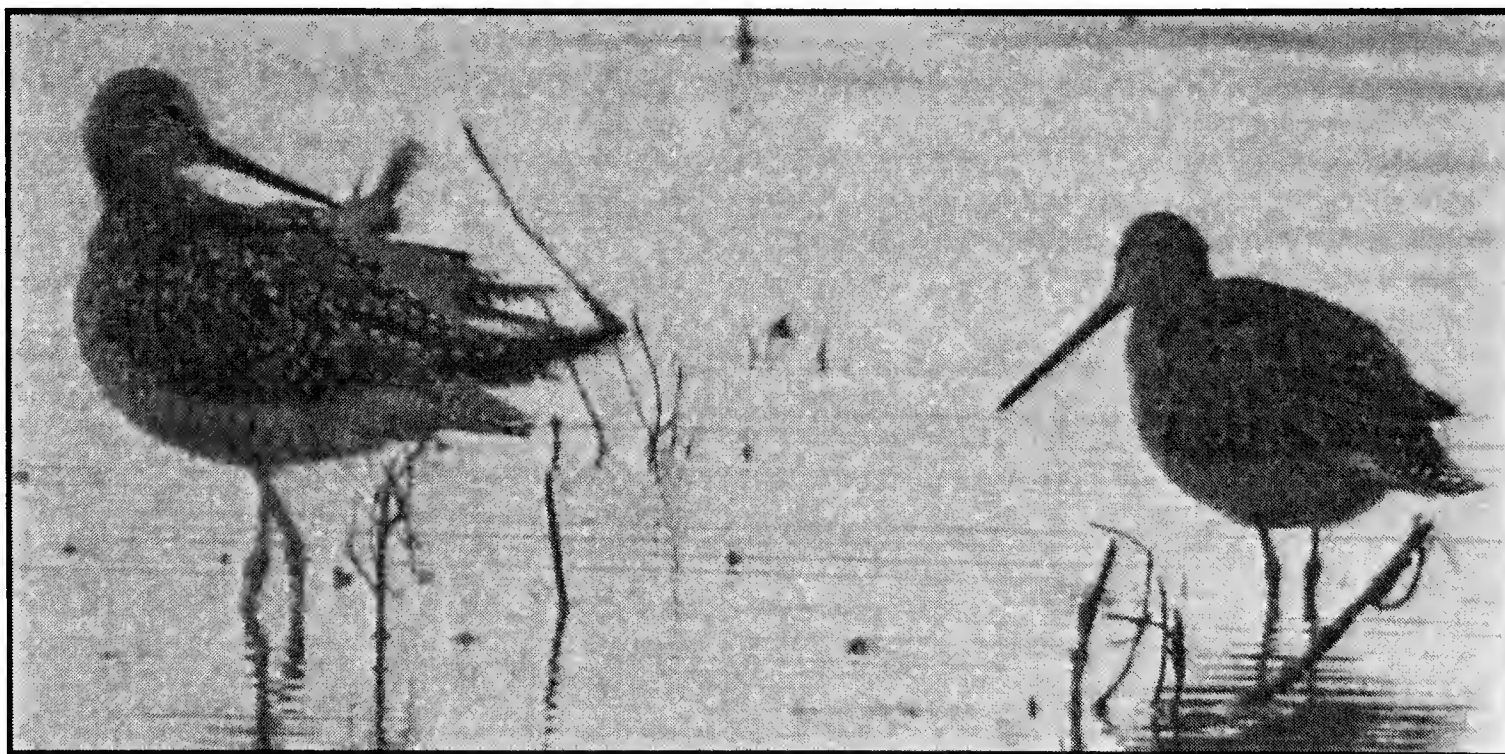
**Aug. 26: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Sept. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night.** Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Oct. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will present "Gull Watching at Niagara and in Ontario."

**Oct. 14: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Nov. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."



**(Left) Greater Yellowlegs and (Right) Long-billed Dowitcher photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on March 25<sup>th</sup>.**



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 78, No. 5 May 2012

### THE MONTH: April

William Watson

**The Weather:** After a record shattering hot March with an average temperature of 47.4°F and an unusually warm winter, a cooler April finally returned Western New York weather to near normal conditions with an average of 45.2°F (only 0.7°F below normal) and 3.04 inches of rain (only .03 inches above normal). This is only the second time in the Buffalo weather archives that an April was colder than the preceding March. The last time we had a month with below normal temperature was March 2011. (The likelihood of twelve months in a row randomly having above normal temperatures is one in 4096 and suggests global warming in our area might be for real.) The 82°F on the 16<sup>th</sup> was the warmest day this month and new record high, while the 28°F reading on the 29<sup>th</sup> was the coldest temperature for the month giving us the first daily record low minimum in over five years. The cold front on the 23<sup>rd</sup> produced the month's inch of snow and over an inch of precipitation alleviating the dry start to spring. The chilly end to the month resulted in only 13 species of warblers, compared to last year's remarkable 23 warbler species for April.

**Early Arrivals:** While trying to find a Brewer's Blackbird in a pasture along Balmer Road in Niagara County Willie D'Anna was instead surprised to find a Cattle Egret. His April 17 sighting is the third earliest ever in the BOS archives. Since most years the first Virginia Rail does not show up until the last week in April, the one found April 3<sup>rd</sup> by Celeste Morien at Iroquois NWR is a great find. Over the years we have had numerous winter (but rare) reports of Virginia Rail, so I will hesitate to make any claim that it is the second earliest migrant record. Celeste also found a very early Common Gallinule at Iroquois NWR on the 5<sup>th</sup>, which is our second earliest record. The earliest record of the species was found on the BOS April 4, 1993, Bird Count. The two

yours truly on the 6<sup>th</sup> are in a four-way tie for our third earliest arrival.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> at Buckhorn Island State Park Joe Fell heard, "a series of chattering mechanical notes," which he recognized as a singing Marsh Wren. This wren was thirteen days earlier than its date in the Verification Date Guide, but is not nearly as early as the one seen by Holly Sweeney on March 18<sup>th</sup> this year. Although this year's early Marsh Wren phenomena could be due to the



(Top) Yellow-throated Warbler photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Forest Lawn Cemetery on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and (Bottom) Saw-whet Owl Nestlings photographed by Jacquie Walters at Watts Flats WMA on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |                                                                       |                               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 37 | <b>The Month</b><br><i>William Watson</i>                             | Dunlins that                  |
| 39 | <b>Hamburg Hawk Watch 2012</b><br><i>Jim Landau</i>                   | Celeste Morien                |
| 41 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b><br><i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> | found at Iroquois             |
| 47 | <b>BOS April Count 2012</b><br><i>Holly Sweeney</i>                   | Kumpf Marsh on                |
| 52 | <b>Calendar</b>                                                       | the 9 <sup>th</sup> represent |
|    |                                                                       | our seventh                   |
|    |                                                                       | earliest                      |
|    |                                                                       | occurrence. The               |
|    |                                                                       | three Common                  |
|    |                                                                       | Terns found by                |

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

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unusually warm weather, we must remember winter records of Marsh Wren go back as far as January 10, 1886, when E. M. Husted collected one in Orchard Park, and there are six winter records in the 1950s. The Black-and-white Warbler seen by Betsy Potter and Willie D'Anna in Porter in Niagara County on the 19<sup>th</sup> is only bettered by the record of a Black-and-white Warbler on the 18<sup>th</sup> which appears in a chart for Niagara County in E. H. Eaton's *Birds of New York*, which was published in 1910 and again in 1914. Perhaps the most remarkable early arrival was the earliest ever Nashville Warbler found by Richard Salembier on April 22 at Forest Lawn Cemetery. On the 20<sup>th</sup> an early Yellow Warbler was found near the footbridge at Buckhorn Island S. P.

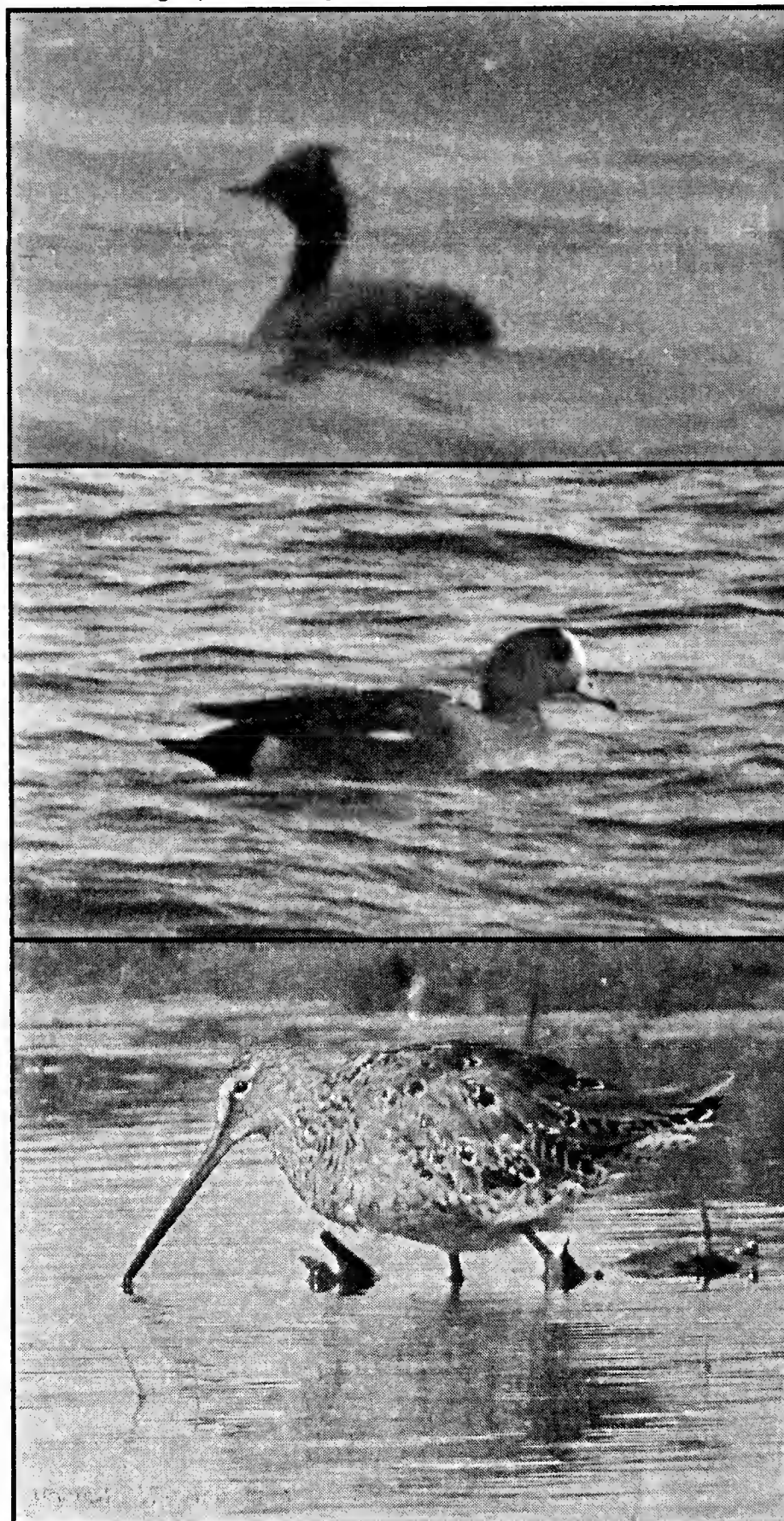
Only the two Yellow Warblers found by Gordon Meade April 19, 1941, at Oak Orchard are earlier.

On the Annual B.O.S. April 15<sup>th</sup> Bird Count Victoria Rothman found a Common Yellowthroat in Section 3 at Colonial Marsh, Sanborn, Niagara County. This is only our second April Count record and the only earlier Common Yellowthroat is one found by Mike Davis on April 11, 1994 in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Also on the Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count were a Scarlet Tanager and a Solitary Sandpiper. In Gas Springs State Forest, Town of Birdsall, Sean Phelan was heading north on the Jersey Hill Road. He had just crossed the Hiltonville Road intersection on to Malone when with a brilliant flash, a fiery red bird dropped to the west shoulder of the road 35 to 40 feet ahead. He instinctively took his foot off the gas pedal and gently applied the brakes allowing the vehicle to coast forward. As the distance closed he realized it was a pair of birds (not just one) that had landed to drink from a puddle on the edge of the road. The first bird he recognized almost instantaneously as a male Scarlet Tanager, easily identifiable by its flaming red body, black wings and tail. The second bird had dark brown wings an olive green cast to its head, back, and tail and a breast with a yellowish cast. Within minutes of the sighting he consulted his Peterson's Field Guide to confirm the female's markings. The Solitary Sandpiper found by

Frances Rew in Section 16 in the Town of Villenova is our fourth April Count record and our fifth earliest record.

**Late Departures:** The only late departure was the Black-headed Gull found by Alec Humann at Rich Marine in Buffalo on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This could be considered our latest ever record, if we consider the Black-headed Gulls observed June 14-17, 2006, and May 29-June 9, 2009 (both at Fort Niagara S. P.) were summering birds.

**Rarities:** Viewing from Swamp Road at Conewango Swamp WMA Joe Mitchell found a Trumpeter Swan. He described the bird's bill as follows: "The bill was large, all black (no visible yellow), and continued in a straight line from the forehead to the tip of the bill with little to no discernible curvature along the top portion. The black cere leading up to the eyes was wide, making the eyes



(Top) Eared Grebe photographed by Willie D'Anna at Shadigee on April 28<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Eurasian Wigeon photographed by Greg Coniglio at Fort Erie, Ontario on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Long-billed Dowitcher photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on April 7<sup>th</sup>.



indistinct. This was also apparent when viewing the head from the front. The feathering along the top of the bill (forehead) formed a distinct V-shape when viewed from the front." Our only other April records of this rare species were April 14, 2008, April 10–12, 2009, and a possible bird shot at Tifft Farm (now Tifft N. P.) in April 1863. There were also undocumented reports of four and two on April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> in Elba.

The Eared Grebe found by Willie D'Anna on Lake Ontario at Shadigee is only our sixth April record. One has to wonder if this is the same Eared Grebe that was seen in April last year on Lake Ontario also from Yates. On April 1<sup>st</sup> Matt King found and photographed our ninth April record of American White Pelican on Whitney Bay, Lake Chautauqua, from Pendergast Point – no fooling. The **Long-billed Dowitcher** that was found by Celeste Morien on March 24 continued until it was last documented by Willie D'Anna on the 7<sup>th</sup> and is only our third spring record of this species. The other two spring records were on April 29, 2006, in Yates and May 3, 2008, at Iroquois NWR.

Oh, the wonder of our modern optics! In describing the BOS' ninth April Black Vulture John Black relates: "We were standing on the Canadian side of the river on the Niagara Parkway at the large overlook above Queenston and the bird was on the chimney of the church roof on the Lewiston side of the river to the left of a Communications tower." This individual has lingered into the breeding season and one wonders when, and if, Black Vulture will be confirmed nesting in the B.O.S. Region.

An exceptionally early Yellow-throated Warbler that was first recorded at Forest Lawn Cemetery on March 25, remained until April 3<sup>rd</sup> when it was last documented by Corey Callaghan. This is the earliest ever record of this rare bird in the Buffalo Ornithological Society study area. There have been eight occurrences of Yellow-throated Warbler in April, including two on this year's April Bird Count.

Sometimes a bird is considered rare because of its location. The Common Raven at the Huntley Plant in Tonawanda required a verification report. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Galas noticed a large black bird that appeared bigger than a crow. Mike recognized it as a Common Raven noting its "tail was spade shaped" as well as other features in his Verification Report. Willie D'Anna also reported a Common Raven at this location on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A Common Raven was also reported at the AES Somerset electrical power generating station by James Flint. Since this bird, like the one at the Huntley generating plant, first showed up in February, could it be one of a nesting pair?

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Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Buffalo Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

BOS/RBA Braddock Bay Field Trip

## Spring 2012 Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary

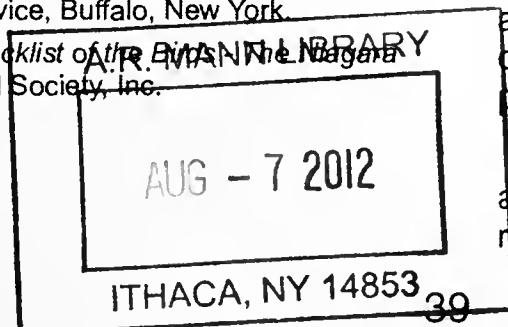
Jim Landau

**Weather Factors:** Spring hawk watches throughout the northeast were especially interested this year to see what effect the historically mild winter of 2012 would have on hawk migration patterns and numbers. Lake Erie never came close to freezing over and as things turned out, spring 2012 in Western New York continued with record-shattering warmth and below normal precipitation. The expectation was that these unusually warm temperatures might produce larger than normal flights, however that wasn't to be the case, at least not at Hamburg. Our watchers remarked on the number of consecutive mild, sunny days with poor hawk flights, dominated by northerly or westerly winds. Those prevailing winds would appear to hold the key to this season's tepid species totals. The following weather information was excerpted from the Monthly Climate Summaries obtained from the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo.

**March:** March 2012 will long be remembered for shattering the previous records for warmth across Western New York and much of the central and eastern United States. The average temperature for the month was 47.4 degrees, which is an amazing 13.4 degrees above average and is actually warmer than the average temperature for the month of April. A massive ridge of high pressure formed over the central and eastern portion of the country for an entire week, allowing an unseasonably warm air-mass to push north through much of the nation along and east of the Mississippi River. During this stretch, temperatures in Western New York were only a few degrees shy of where they typically are in the middle of summer and were 30 to 35 degrees above average. The first Bald Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk of the watch season turned up on the 2nd with additional raptor species arriving on the 10th. Strong flights eventually arrived by the middle of the month and accipiters, buteos and falcons all got off to encouraging starts. Overall the March flight continued the upward trend for the past 10 seasons.

**April:** After a remarkably warm March for the central and eastern United States, April returned to seasonal norms across the eastern Great Lakes. Cool days outnumbered warm days through the month, with typical spring temperature fluctuations as several late season cold pushes of air penetrated into a building warm spring air mass. Though the month finished just slightly below normal, it was only the second time ever Buffalo had a cooler April than March. Despite the below normal temperatures, April finished with 54 percent possible sunshine. That sunshine evidently failed to generate sufficient raptor-loving thermal updrafts however, and flight numbers this month were the lowest in the past 10 years, continuing a declining trend for April. Accipiters and buteos both had tepid showings, especially considering this month to traditionally hold the greatest potential for large Broad-winged Hawk flights.

**May:** After experiencing near normal temperatures and precipitation in April, very warm and dry conditions returned in May. The total rainfall of 0.90 inches at the





Buffalo Airport was 2.56 inches below normal, making this the fifth driest May on record. Almost all of the rain that did fall came during the time span covering the first nine days of the month, which resulted in "no count conducted" days on the 1st and the 8th. However, clearing weather on the 2nd provided us with one of the strongest flights of the season, as well as what was clearly the "bird of the season." After tallying successive kettles of predominantly Broad-winged Hawks, three observers were thrilled to view the passing of a Swallow-tailed Kite following the same northeast flight direction. Two days later another, or the same individual, was reported at the Derby Hill Bird Observatory at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Prior to this year there have been only three sightings of this species on record from neighboring hawk watches; Derby Hill (one on 4/16/1972), Braddock Bay (one on 5/30/1987) and Grimsby, ON (one on 4/15/1994). This May also set a new high count for the month.

**Data Table:** The table represents the past 10 seasons, with this season's count data also broken down by month. Highlighted cells indicate high counts for some of the species identified at the watch.

Highest March total: 7,952 (2011). Highest April total: 12,134 (2010). Highest May total: 2,097 (2012). Highest season total: 19,117 (2010).

	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SK	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
Feb							1	1				14						1	17
Mar		5568	4	10	9		62	38	1	72		446	5		19	1		33	6268
Apr		3173	38	9	12		180	33	1	6	880	271	8	1	13	3	2	18	4648
May		528	45	15	2	1	194	14			1106	170			7		3	12	2097
2012		9269	87	34	23	1	437	86	2	78	1986	901	13	1	39	4	5	64	13030
2011	1	12476	60	53	38		608	92	2	108	2861	923	33	6	84	7	2	85	17439
2010		13445	73	63	44		583	136		419	2812	1314	57	2	58	5	6	100	19117
2009	2	13174	90	54	40		410	126		177	1334	1212	18	2	73	8	6	58	16784
2008		9812	92	24	48		423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2007		9326	110	28	39		410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65	13010
2006	1	9160	113	43	50		609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	14136
2005		7838	109	42	76		525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	13141
2004	2	7723	91	39	104		395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	11938
2003		8872	151	29	101		889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	17411

**Species abbreviations:** BV Black Vulture, TV Turkey Vulture, OS Osprey, BE Bald Eagle, NH Northern Harrier, SK Swallow-tailed Kite, SS Sharp-shinned Hawk, CH Cooper's Hawk, NG Northern Goshawk, RS Red-shouldered Hawk, BW Broad-winged Hawk, RT Red-tailed Hawk, RL Rough-legged Hawk, GE Golden Eagle, AK American Kestrel, ML Merlin, PG Peregrine Falcon, UR Unknown Raptor

**Species Reports:** Black Vulture sightings were reported all over Western New York and Southern Ontario this spring, however none were at the hawk watch. After an all-time record high count in 2010 Turkey Vulture saw its 2nd season of declining numbers. Perhaps they have finally "maxed out" their territorial expansion? This season Osprey pulled out of a dive that began in 2007, but it continues to present a puzzle, showing a downward trend despite documented increases in nest activity in Western New York. Bald Eagle followed a similar path, down for the 2nd year after an all-time high count in 2010. The well-known story of their successful rebound and increasing numbers of active nests erases any concerns over our count fluctuations. Golden Eagle numbers are always too low to bear statistical scrutiny. The same reassurances do not apply to Northern Harrier, which continues a discouraging slide begun in 2005. To date there are no accepted verification reports for Swallow-tailed Kite in the Noteworthy Records database of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, however verification

reports have been submitted for this May's sighting. There were no significant changes for any of the three accipiters. Buteos as a group however, see a ten year decline. Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk are all trending downward, with Broad-winged Hawk on a relatively stable statistical course. The falcons as a group are similarly in decline, principally due to a steady drop in American Kestrel numbers. 74 non-raptor species provided additional welcome interest for watchers, with Sandhill Crane, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, and Rusty Blackbird of special note.

It is important to note that these species counts and trends do not exist in a vacuum. Our closest neighboring hawk watches (Ripley, Grimsby, ON and Braddock Bay) routinely experience different migration numbers than ours, sometimes dramatically so. Combined with wind and weather data, these numbers point us toward a better understanding of the various migration routes taken by these birds as they travel north each spring toward their breeding grounds. Analysis of this data allows us to better address the challenges of habitat loss and environmental degradation that are faced by these majestic birds.

**Acknowledgements:** Hamburg Hawk Watch would not exist without the participation of our volunteer counters. The coordinator most gratefully acknowledges the considerable commitment of time and effort of Bruce Chilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy. These "Hawk Watch Heroes" can be found at the watch week in and week out, good flights and poor, scanning through sharp sunny glare and cold misty rain for that next raptor to pass by. Sincere thanks are also given to Tom Connare, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, David Gordon, Doug Happ, Joe Mitchell, Tim O'Day, Sharon Sisti and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan. They all lent their time to provide count coverage at the watch this season. Many others stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration with us. Their support, knowledge and interest are always a welcome addition.

This spring we lost a good birding friend and one of our original "Hawk Watch Heroes." This season's hawk watch is dedicated to the memory of Mike Hamilton.

Hamburg Hawk Watch is an "all volunteer" spring watch. It is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park on Route 75 in Hamburg and is about 1 mile from the Lake Erie shore. Dedicated coverage runs from March 1 through May 15. The data is uploaded to HawkCount.org, a database of information maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. The home page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of raptor information and links. Data from Hamburg and many other watches can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>

Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	4; 28	2	Point Breeze	Hartquist; D'Anna
"	22	1	Twelve Mile Creek	D'Anna
"	22	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	28; 29	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Mitchell; Lazarczyk
"	29; 30	4; 2	Elba	Fox; Morien
Tundra Swan	14	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn et al
"	27; 28	2; 1	Tifft NP	Watson, et al; Salembier
Gadwall	5	30	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Eurasian Wigeon	3 - 11	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Humann et al
"	8	1	Miller Bay (Ont)	Wormington
Northern Shoveler	3	50	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	14, 28	79, 88	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Northern Pintail	28	45	Hartland	Callaghan
"	29	75	Elba	Fox
Green-winged Teal	29	82	Elba	Fox
Canvasback	11	1	Niagara Falls	Morien
Redhead	7	6	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	7	2	Conewango WMA	Mitchell
"	8	2	Dayton	Mitchell
"	11	3	Niagara Falls	Watson, Morien
Ring-necked Duck	25; 28	280; 255	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; D'Anna et al
Greater Scaup	20	3	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	14, 28	157, 154	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14	60	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	22	61	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Harlequin Duck	11; 22L	2; 2	Goat I.	Watson, Morien; Yoerg
Surf Scoter	2	1	Point Breeze	Morien
"	12	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	14	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	1	Shadigee	Fox
Long-tailed Duck	3	594	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	7	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	12	900	Wilson	D'Anna
Bufflehead	6, 14; 29	229, 278; 97	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Hooded Merganser	6	260	Buffalo	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	1	400	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Fell
"	11	310	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	12	500	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	3; 16	28; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Humann
"	6, 14	497, 424	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	8	21	Dayton	Mitchell
"	12, 28	40, 30	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Red-throated Loon	28; 29	74; 75	Shadigee	Callaghan; Fox
Common Loon	28	209	Shadigee	D'Anna, Callaghan
Pied-billed Grebe	1; 25	19; 19	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Watson
Horned Grebe	12	26	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Fell

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	1	1	Bond Lake, Lewiston	Genter
"	2	3	Point Breeze	Morien
"	12	61	Wilson	D'Anna
"	18	1	Olcott	Lawrence
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	28	1	Shadigee	D'Anna et al
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	1	1	Prendergast Pt.	King
D.-crested Cormorant	6	1	Freedom	Rosche
"	7	2	Dayton	Rosche
"	11	318	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Morien
"	11, 27	190, 122	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	20	221 + 68 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	110	Motor I.	Watson
"	29	501	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
"	29	700	Wilson	Ewald
* American Bittern	7F	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	25, 28	1	Tifft NP	Frauen; Bowman et al
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Holmes
Great Blue Heron	6	85 + 63 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	6, 29	11, 44	Strawberry I	Watson
"	11	27 + 15 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Morien
"	19	1	Wellsville	Brooks
"	27	46 + 28 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	28	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Callaghan
* Cattle Egret	<u>17</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
* Green Heron	8F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Black-cr. Night-Heron	11	142	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Morien
"	22	75	Goat I.	Yoerg, Henderson
Black Vulture	8	1	Artpark SP	Fell
"	16	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Hardenburg et al
Turkey Vulture	1, 2	548, 670	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	2; 3	1415; 454	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Zebehazy et al
Osprey	5, 6	2 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11	2 + 2 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	15, 16	19, 12	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	18	2 ad + n	Wheatfield	Watson
"	25	2 ad + 2 n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	25	6 ad + 4 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	29	1 ad + n	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Bald Eagle	12	1, 2yg + n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	13	2 ad + n	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	13, 25, 26	6, 6, 12	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	16	5	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	25	1 yg + n	Iroquois NWR	Hess
"	25	2 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Harrier	15, 16	12, 10	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	16	6	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13; 20	29; 38	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau; Mitchell
"	14, 16	123, 127	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	16	40	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
Cooper's Hawk	14	9	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Northern Goshawk	5	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
"	8, 13	1, 1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
* Broad-winged Hawk	9F, 15, 26	2, 3210, 1474	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	10; 30	1; 430	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy; Watson
"	16	2000	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
Red-tailed Hawk	2; 13	36; 46	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Landau et al
"	13, 16	32, 32	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Rough-legged Hawk	16	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	17	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy, Russell
"	20	1	Eden	Andrle
"	30	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Golden Eagle	16	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	20	1	Ischua	Reed



<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	29	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	J Landau
American Kestrel	14	24	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Merlin	2; 18	1; 1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Chilton et al
"	15, 30	2, 2	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	16	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	2	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Mitchell
"	3; 12	1; 1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy; Rew
"	11	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Morien
"	28	1 ad	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	29	2	Gallagher Beach, Bflo.	Humann
* Virginia Rail	<u>3F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	7	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	30	2	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Sora	16	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	16	2	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	22	1	Kiantone	Berry
* Common Gallinule	<u>5F; 7</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; D'Anna
American Coot	5, 12	267, 233	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	8	97	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Sandhill Crane	8	2	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	8	1	Dayton	Mitchell
"	12	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	14	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	14	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	16	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	21	4	Lockport	Fide C. Adams
"	28	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Spotted Sandpiper	21	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	25	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Solitary Sandpiper	20	3	Ischua	Reed
"	22	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Callaghan
Greater Yellowlegs	5	55	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
"	25	146	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	29	75	Elba	Fox
Lesser Yellowlegs	29	25	Elba	Fox
Upland Sandpiper	19	1	Wilson	Muller
"	29	1	Welland (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Jacklin
* Least Sandpiper	22F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Gordon
* Pectoral Sandpiper	9F	2	Gasport	Morien
"	9F	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	11	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
* Dunlin	<u>9F; 22</u>	2; 17	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Callaghan
"	25	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	1; 7	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; D'Anna
Wilson's Snipe	1; 16	15; 6	Iroquois NWR	Salembier; Yoerg
"	14	11	Tillman Rd WMA	Salembier
Bonaparte's Gull	1	1500	Goat I.	Carlson
"	3	3051	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	6; 26	3000; 700	Rich Marine	Watson; Humann
"	20	3	Ischua	Reed
Black-headed Gull	<u>26</u>	1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Humann
Little Gull	1	11	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	1, 27	1, 1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Humann
"	8	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
Herring Gull	29	800	Wilson	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1; 22	4; 1	Goat I.	Carlson; Yoerg et al
"	8	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	22	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	25	2	Point Breeze	Hartquist

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	1	1 imm	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Great Black-b. Gull	8	66	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
* Caspian Tern	6F	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	Humann
"	7	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
"	7, 9	1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	7	2	Falconer	G&R Lazarczyk
"	28; 29	115; 131	Point Breeze	Callaghan, D'Anna; Fox
"	29	70	Wilson Pier	D'Anna
* Black Tern	28F, 29	6, 8	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Watson
* Common Tern	<u>6F</u>	3	Buffalo	Watson
"	8	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Humann
"	9	47	Squaw I.	Mitchell
"	27	130; 240	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Humann; Watson
"	29	65	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna
* Forster's Tern	29F	1	Point Breeze	Fox
Short-eared Owl	3, 29	3, 1	Shelby	Morien
"	4 – 28	2	Alexander	Beattie
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	30	1 ad & 4 yg	Watts Flats WMA	Rothrock, Walters et al
* Chimney Swift	16F	7	Buffalo	Humann
"	18	9	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
Red-headed Wdpkr.	25; 29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Hartquist; Fox
* Eastern Kingbird	29F	1	Jamestown	Bango
Blue-headed Vireo	16	1	Wilson	Potter
"	19	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
* Warbling Vireo	27F; 28	1; 1	Alexander	Beattie; Dart, Beattie
"	28	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Common Raven	2; 21	1	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Galas; D'Anna
"	3	1	Ward	Brooks
"	9	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	11	1	<u>Somerset</u>	Flint
"	23	1	East Aurora	J. Crowell
* Purple Martin	8F	1	Eden	Andrle
"	9; 12	1; 3	Iroquois NWR	Ewald; Morien
"	12	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
Tree Swallow	3; 4	500; 375	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Callaghan
"	11	80	Goat I.	Watson, Morien
"	29	50	Conewango WMA	Lazarczyk
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	6F	3	Crescent Beach (Ont)	Humann
"	7	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
"	11	3	Niagara Falls	Morien
Bank Swallow	22	3	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	26	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Cliff Swallow	22; 28	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; D'Anna et al
"	29	26 & 37 n	North Tonawanda	Watson
* Barn Swallow	3F	2	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Humann
"	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
Brown Creeper	7	10	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Carolina Wren	1 – 30	2 - 3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1 – 30	2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	1, 30	1, 2	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	8	1	Point Gratiot	Watson, Goetz
"	14	1	RT Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	18, 28	2	Tift NP	Salembier
House Wren	17	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Marsh Wren	<u>12F</u>	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Fell
"	22; 28	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan; Morien
Golden-cr. Kinglet	8	42	Tift NP	Salembier
"	8	35	Point Gratiot	Watson
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	8	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	18	2	Porter	Watson, Rothman

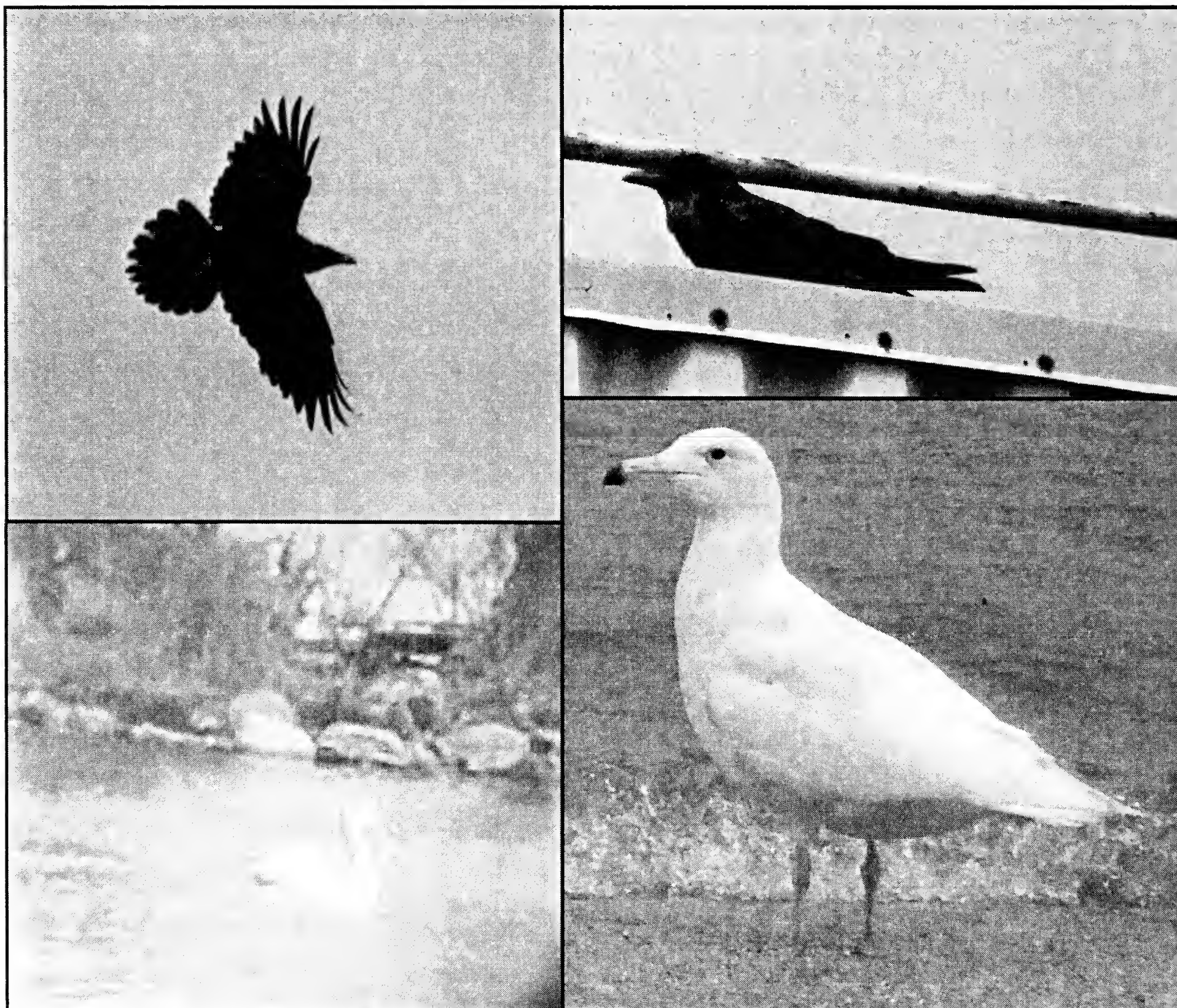
<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	3	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Hermit Thrush	12F	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	14	1	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	14	7	Greenwood Cem.	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	6	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Wood Thrush	26F	1	Mill Road Park	Yerkovich
Gray Catbird	14; 28	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan; Morien
Northern Mockingbird	6	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	8	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	12; 18	1	Porter	M&S Galas; Watson
"	22	1	Elba	Mitchell
"	27	1	Gallagher Beach, Bflo.	Watson
* Brown Thrasher	14F	3	Tifft NP	Humann
"	14F	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Pipit	6,14	8, 9	Busti	Berry
"	22, 29	40, 55	Wilson	D'Anna
* Ovenbird	25F	1	Tifft NP	Frauen
* Northern Waterthrush	19F	1	Elma	Fuhrmann
"	20	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
Louisiana Waterthrush	16	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Mitchell
"	19	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan, Fell
* Black-&-white Warbler	<u>19F</u>	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
* Tennessee Warbler	28F	1	Wilson	Potter
* Nashville Warbler	<u>22F</u>	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	24	1	Alden	Mitchell
Common Yellowthroat	28	3	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
* Blackburnian Warbler	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Yellow Warbler	<u>20F</u>	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	21	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Seburn, BonEnfant et al
"	28	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Palm Warbler	16	1	Wilson	Potter
"	16; 30	1; 7	Amherst SP	Barton; Salembier
Pine Warbler	1	1	Orchard Park(f)	Barth
"	2	1	Fredonia	Mosher
"	2	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Yellow-rump. Warbler	20	12	Ward	Brooks
"	22	51	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	1; 2; 3	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	D'Anna; Zebehazy; Callaghan
* Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	16F	1	Amherst	Welte
"	21	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, BonEnfant et al
Eastern Towhee	18	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
Amer. Tree Sparrow	28	4	Beaver Meadow AC	L. Smith, Gordon
Chipping Sparrow	22	75	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Vesper Sparrow	14	1	Oakfield	Morien
"	20	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	22	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	22	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Carlton	D'Anna, Callaghan
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien
Fox Sparrow	8; 14	5; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Humann
"	21	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
White-cr. Sparrow	5, 13, 18	1, 1, 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	28	9	Tifft NP	Fell
"	30	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Lapland Longspur	21; 22	8; 9	Wilson	D'Anna; Yoerg et al
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	24F-27	1 male	N. Clymer(f)	Beebe
"	25	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
"	26	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
Rusty Blackbird	2, 5	400, 387	Iroquois NWR	Morien



<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	150	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
"	28	50	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Baltimore Oriole	30F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Purple Finch	21	10	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
White-w. Crossbill	8	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
Pine Siskin	6	2	Shelby	Morien
"	10	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	1	Eden (f)	Andrie
"	10 – 30	2 - 6	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
"	14	10	Wilson	D'Anna
"	17	3	East Aurora	Holmes

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 160  
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month (including April Count): 46  
**Total for the year 2012:** **206**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(Top Right and Left) Common Raven photographed by James Flint at Somerset on April 11<sup>th</sup>, (Bottom Left) American White Pelican photographed by Matt King at Pendergast Point (Lake Chautauqua) on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and (Bottom Right) Glaucous Gull photographed by Bill Watson at Dunkirk Harbor on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

# Report of the 2012 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Holly Sweeney

## Buffalo Ornithological Society, April Bird Count, April 15, 2012

**Weather Synopsis:** Weather on the count day was influenced by the slow passage of a warm front the previous day. Temperatures warmed throughout the day starting in the mid 50's and ending near 60. A rain shield moved north during the day and a minor squall line passed midday. By evening the count area was well within the warm sector between the warm front and an advancing cold front. The low pressure center connecting the fronts was in Wisconsin at day's end. Near record warm temperatures and strong southwest winds characterized weather conditions the following day before the cold front finally passed.

**Greater Buffalo International Airport, Sunrise: 6:33AM EDT Sunset: 7:58 PM EDT**

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Cloudy	55 °F	49 °F	1014.2 mb	SW10	
3:00 am	Light Drizzle, Fog, Mist	54	52	1013.2	SW14	
6:00 am	Light Rain, Fog, Mist	54	53	1013.0	SW6	
9:00 am	Light Drizzle, Fog, Mist	55	54	1013.8	S7	
12:00 pm	Light Rain, Fog, Mist	59	56	1012.8	S13	
3:00 pm	Cloudy	63	58	1012.1	SW 9	
6:00 pm	Cloudy	66	57	1011.2	SW10	Minor squall passed @4pm
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	60	52	1012.3	S8	
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	59	51	1011.7	S5	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

<b>G e e s e - H e r o n s</b>					
Snow Goose	1	(7)	Ring-necked Duck	1115	
Cackling Goose	3	(3,13)	Greater Scaup	37	
Canada Goose	10204		Lesser Scaup	237	
Mute Swan	31		unspecified scaup	11	(8,25)
<b>Trumpeter Swan</b>	1	(10)	Harlequin Duck	2	(9)
Tundra Swan	2	(14)	White-winged Scoter	13	(1,3,5)
Wood Duck	545		Long-tailed Duck	810	
Gadwall	205		Bufflehead	1496	
Eurasian Wigeon	1	(8)	Common Goldeneye	9	(3,5,9)
American Wigeon	554		Hooded Merganser	240	
American Black Duck	42		Common Merganser	265	
Mallard	1023		Red-breasted Merganser	3333	
Blue-winged Teal	101		Ruddy Duck	185	
Northern Shoveler	246		unspecified ducks	337	
Northern Pintail	136		Ring-necked Pheasant	31	
Green-winged Teal	266		Ruffed Grouse	19	
Canvasback	2	(28)	Wild Turkey	209	
Redhead	36				
Red-throated Loon	52	(3,5)	Double-crested Cormorant	3680	
Common Loon	531		American Bittern	3	(10,20)
unspecified loons	75	(3)	Great Blue Heron	423	
Pied-billed Grebe	133		Great Egret	92	
Horned Grebe	89		Black-crowned Night-Heron	116	
Red-necked Grebe	5	(3,4,5)			

<b>Vultures - Cranes</b>					
Turkey Vulture		523			
<b>Black Vulture</b>		1	(3)	American Kestrel	136
Osprey		57		Merlin	6
Bald Eagle		38		unspecified hawks	1 (20)
Northern Harrier		30			
Sharp-shinned Hawk		103		Virginia Rail	4 (3,10)
Cooper's Hawk		37		* Sora	F 1 (13)
Northern Goshawk		1	(19)	Common Gallinule	9 (10)
unspecified accipiters		2	(7,12)	American Coot	403
Red-shouldered Hawk		11			
Broad-winged Hawk		819		Sandhill Crane	4
Red-tailed Hawk		159			
<b>Plovers – Terns</b>					
Killdeer		399			
Greater Yellowlegs		69		Little Gull	7 (3,20)
Lesser Yellowlegs		52		Bonaparte's Gull	6160
unspecified yellowlegs		2	(20)	Ring-billed Gull	18399
* <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	F	1	(16)	Herring Gull	1247
* Spotted Sandpiper	F	6	(12,17)	Iceland Gull	2 (2)
* Upland Sandpiper	F	2	(6,10)	Glaucous Gull	4 (3,8,20)
Pectoral Sandpiper		32	(6,7,10)	Great Black-backed Gull	47
Dunlin		23	(4,5,10)	unspecified gulls	2500 (7)
Wilson's Snipe		153		Caspian Tern	166
American Woodcock		38		Common Tern	96
unspecified shorebirds		5	(8)		
<b>Pigeons - Swallows</b>					
Rock Pigeon		1111			
Mourning Dove		1723		Eastern Phoebe	184
Eastern Screech-Owl		12		* Blue-headed Vireo	F 10
Great Horned Owl		7		Blue Jay	1030
Barred Owl		2	(13,20)	American Crow	1919
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1	(28)	unspecified crows	46 (2)
				Common Raven	20
Belted Kingfisher		129		Horned Lark	152
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	(5)		
Red-bellied Woodpecker		266		Purple Martin	139
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		200		Tree Swallow	2146
Downy Woodpecker		342		N. Rough-winged Swallow	64
Hairy Woodpecker		106		* Bank Swallow	F 5 (6,28)
Northern Flicker		852		* Cliff Swallow	F 1 (24)
Pileated Woodpecker		57		Barn Swallow	151
<b>Tits - Warblers</b>					
Black-capped Chickadee		1171			
Tufted Titmouse		141		* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F 1 (20)
Red-breasted Nuthatch		22		Eastern Bluebird	320
White-breasted Nuthatch		169		Hermit Thrush	38
Brown Creeper		96		American Robin	7553
Carolina Wren		37			
* House Wren	F	3	10,20,23	Gray Catbird	16
Winter Wren		16		Northern Mockingbird	34
<b>Marsh Wren</b>		1	(10)	Brown Thrasher	40
Golden-crowned Kinglet		184		European Starling	10629
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		152		American Pipit	328
unspecified kinglets		1	(8)	Cedar Waxwing	175



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**Warblers – House Sparrows**

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Yellow-rumped Warbler		241			
<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>		2	(24)	Dark-eyed Junco	961
Pine Warbler		43		unspecified sparrows	9 (3,13)
* Palm Warbler	<b>F</b>	2	(1,10)	Lapland Longspur	2 (28)
* Louisiana Waterthrush	<b>F</b>	1	(20)	Northern Cardinal	1160
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	<b>F</b>	1	(3)	Red-winged Blackbird	8467
* <b>Scarlet Tanager</b>	<b>F</b>	2	(19)	Eastern Meadowlark	246
Eastern Towhee		133		Rusty Blackbird	1086
American Tree Sparrow		44		Common Grackle	4218
Chipping Sparrow		531		Brown-headed Cowbird	1342
Field Sparrow		257		unspecified blackbirds	50 (8)
Vesper Sparrow		13		Purple Finch	128
Savannah Sparrow		367		House Finch	346
Fox Sparrow		23		Pine Siskin	133
Song Sparrow		2076		American Goldfinch	1223
Swamp Sparrow		329		House Sparrow	1602
White-throated Sparrow		236		unspecified birds	12 (13)
White-crowned Sparrow		23			

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SUMMARY INFORMATION:    Total species observed: 158 –count high record  
                                     Total individual birds observed: 115814- decade low record

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Holly Sweeney, compare this year's records with those for 2002-2011 and those for 1935-2011. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2012 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:****Highest count since 1935 (x the average of the previous 76 years):**

Wood Duck-545 (3.4xavg.)	Eastern Screech-Owl -12-(4xavg.)	Eastern Towhee-133(8.8xavg.)
Gadwall-205 (6.4xavg.)	Pileated Woodpecker- 57-(4xavg.)	Field Sparrow-257-(5.8xavg.)
Common Loon-531 (14xavg.)	House Wren-3-(30xavg.)	Savannah Sparrow-367(5.7xavg.)
Great Egret- 92 (23x avg.)	Eastern Bluebird-320-(3.4xavg.)	Swamp Sparrow-329-(7.6xavg.)
Osprey- 57 (5.7xavg.)	Gray Catbird-16-(8xavg.)	
Common Gallinule-9-(30xavg.)	Brown Thrasher-40-(13.3xavg.)	
Sandhill Crane-4-(13xavg.)	Yellow-rumped Warbler-241-(30xavg.)	
Lesser Yellowlegs-52-(10xavg.)	Pine Warbler- 43-(43xavg.)	
Spotted Sandpiper-6-(15xavg.)		
Dunlin- 23-(70xavg.)		

**Lowest count since 1935 (average number seen during the previous 76 years):** none

**Rare count sightings:** First count record- Cackling Goose , Black Vulture, Common Yellowthroat  
Second count record- Yellow-throated Warbler (prev. in 1985), Scarlet Tanager (prev. in 1988)  
Third count record- Trumpeter Swan (2002/2008), Marsh Wren(1945/1985)

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2003:****Highest count in past decade (x the average of the previous 10 years):**

Wood Duck-545-(1.4xavg.)	American Coot-403-(1.9xavg.)	Gray Catbird-16- (4xavg.)
Gadwall- 205-(2xavg.)	Sandhill Crane-4-(4xavg.)	Northern Mockingbird-34 (1.2xavg.)
Harlequin Duck-2- (3xavg.)	Lesser Yellowlegs-52-(4.9xavg.)	Brown Thrasher-40-(3.6xavg.)
Red-throated Loon-52- (3xavg.)	Spotted Sandpiper-6-(6xavg.)	Yellow-rumped Warbler-241-(9.2xavg.)
Common Loon- 531-(5.7xavg.)	Dunlin-23-(23xavg.)	Pine Warbler- 43-(6xavg.)
Pied-billed Grebe-133-(1.7xavg.)	Eastern Screech-Owl-12-(1.5xavg.)	Eastern Towhee-133-(4.3xavg.)
American Bittern-3-(3xavg.)	Pileated Woodpecker-57-(1.2xavg.)	Field Sparrow-257-(3xavg.)
Great Egret-92-(4.6xavg.)	Purple Martin- 139-(3.3xavg.)	Savannah Sparrow-367-(2.4xavg.)
Osprey-57-(1.8xavg.)	Carolina Wren-37- (1.6xavg.)	Swamp Sparrow-329-(2.4xavg.)
Merlin-6- (2xavg.)	House Wren-3- (7xavg.)	Eastern Meadowlark-246-(1.5xavg.)
Common Gallinule-9-(45xavg.)	Eastern Bluebird-320- (1.6xavg.)	

**Lowest count in past decade (average number seen during the previous 10 years):**

Canada Goose-10204 (19415)	Great Black-backed Gull- 47- (167)
Greater Scaup- 37 (324)	Barred Owl- 2- (7)
Surf Scoter- 0- (12)	American Crow- 1919- (2618)
Common Goldeneye-9-(330)	Red-breasted Nuthatch- 22- (56)
Red-necked Grebe-5 (24)	White-breasted Nuthatch- 169- (235)
Northern Harrier- 30 (51)	Dark-eyed Junco-961- (2070)
Red-shouldered Hawk- 11 (24)	House Finch- 346-(548)
Red-tailed Hawk- 159 (343)	

**Rare count sightings:** First decade records: Cackling Goose, Black Vulture, Marsh Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager- Second decade records: Trumpeter Swan, Harlequin Duck, Solitary Sandpiper - Third decade records: Eurasian Wigeon, Common Gallinule, Cliff Swallow, House Wren.

**SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES:**

This report continues a change instituted in the April 2008 count report for the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as has been done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

**INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2003-2012) except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Mute Swan (0/154); Wood Duck, 4.5x; Gadwall, 5.1x; Mallard, 1.5x; Northern Shoveler, 6.7x; Green-winged Teal, 2.6x; Ring-necked Duck, 2.4x; Bufflehead, 2.2x; Hooded Merganser, 1.8x; Red-breasted Merganser, 3.7x; Ruddy Duck, 13.2x; Wild Turkey, 11.3x; Red-throated Loon, 97x; Common Loon, 11.5x; Double-crested Cormorant, 12,448X; Great Blue Heron, 3.8x; Great Egret, 46.3x; Green Heron (0/13); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 14.7x; Turkey Vulture, 23.7x; Osprey, 7.1x; Bald Eagle, 52.6x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 6.9x; Cooper's Hawk, 4x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.7x; Merlin (0/35); Peregrine Falcon (0/24); Virginia Rail, 29x; Sora, 6x; Sandhill Crane, (0/18); Greater Yellowlegs, 3.8x; Lesser Yellowlegs, 5.8x; Little Gull, 9.9x; Bonaparte's Gull, 4.9x; Ring-billed Gull, 5.4x; Iceland Gull, 8.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/20); Glaucous Gull, 4.2x; Great Black-backed Gull, 13.6x; Caspian Tern, 799x; Common Tern, 6.3x; Rock Pigeon, 3.2x; Mourning Dove, 2.7x; Eastern Screech Owl, 2.4x; Barred Owl, 4.1x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 20.7x; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 9.6x; Pileated Woodpecker, 2.9x; Blue-headed Vireo (0/47); Common Raven (0/183); Tree Swallow, 4.8x; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 79.7x; Barn Swallow, 6.9x; Tufted Titmouse, 9.8x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2x; Brown Creeper, 1.6x; Carolina Wren, 6.3x; Winter Wren, 2.5x; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6.7x; Eastern Bluebird, 3x; Hermit Thrush, 7x; Northern Mockingbird, 7.6x; Pine Warbler, 107x; Chipping Sparrow, 5.5x; Savannah Sparrow, 1.9x; Swamp Sparrow, 3.2x; White-throated Sparrow, 2.3x; Northern Cardinal, 1.9x; Purple Finch, 2.5x; House Finch (0/5181); American Goldfinch, 3x.

**DECREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the percentage decrease between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2003-2012):*

Snow Goose, 88%; Canada Goose, 68%; Tundra Swan, 77%; American Black Duck, 84%; Blue-winged Teal, 60%; Canvasback, 85%; Greater Scaup, 87%; Common Goldeneye, 71%; Common Merganser, 75%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 85%; Ruffed Grouse, 45%; Killdeer, 35%; Snowy Owl, 100%; Long-eared Owl, 95%; Loggerhead Shrike, 100%; Horned Lark, 53%; American Robin, 25%; European Starling, 60%; American Tree Sparrow, 82%; Vesper Sparrow, 91%; Song Sparrow, 43%; Red-winged Blackbird 62%; Eastern Meadowlark, 81%; Common Grackle, 76%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 66%; Evening Grosbeak, 99%; House Sparrow, 67%.

**OBSERVERS** (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.):

Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Julie Tedesco, Terry Yonker

Section 2: **John Black**, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Carol Horvat, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley, John Stevens

Section 3: John Black, Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Phillip Downey, Kathy DiVito, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Dan Salisbury, Anita Wierzba

Section 4: Corey Callaghan, Brooke Genter, Neal Gordon, Brian Morse, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

- Section 5: Lynn Batt, Sally Castren, Morgan Jones, Celeste Morien, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vana
- Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple,
- Section 7: Joseph Fell, Jean Farnan, Jim Rozanski, **Liz Wells**, Margaret Wooster
- Section 8: Peter BonEnfant, Lynda Goodridge, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9: Dave Friedrich, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Chris Hollister, Debbie Milleville, Charles Mitchell, **Gerry Rising**, Frank Voelker, Dan Yox
- Section 10: Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, Melissa Fratello, Nicholas Fratello, **David Gordon**, Damon Praefke, Stephen Sliwinski, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Kim Sucy, Colleen Walsh, John Welte, Martha Welte,
- Section 11: Jacob Abaya, Jenna Abaya, Jonathon Abaya, Peter Corrigan, Teresa Corrigan, Ann Fourtner, Chuck Fourtner, **Chuck Rosenburg**, Richard Salembier, Tim Simon, John Walley, Jacquie Walters
- Section 12: Joe Carlo, Mark Cassel, Gregory Coniglio, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Denise Goulding, Carly Lapin, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, **Mike Morgante**, Mark Nichter, Sarah Piecuch, Josh Stephens, Nathaniel Young
- Section 13: Sarah Balduf, **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Maggie Dadd, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, Judy Garver, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Hans Kunze, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Michael Rickard, Jane Schmieder, Judy Spring, Paula Stone, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
- Section 14: Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Glenna Leous, Mark Leous, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Sharon Sisti, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Carolyn Willington, Wendy Zebehazy
- Section 15: **Ed Ratajczak**, Gary Schwartz, Sally Uzunov
- Section 16: Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**, George Robbins
- Section 17: **Joe Mitchell**, Bert Schweigert
- Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Rick Thomas, Jim Wojewodzki
- Section 19: **Russell Allen**, Betty Bledsoe, James Fegley, Dan Fitzgerald, Debbie Fitzgerald, Eli Knapp, Peter Meilander family, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Rudy Miller, Virginia Norton, Phyllis Osgood, Sean Phelan, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**
- Section 20: Nan Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Dale Loscher, Terry Mahoney, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Shearman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft
- Section 21: Sue Lawton, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
- Section 22: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, Tomas Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
- Section 23: Steve Maggio, Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
- Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Bert Schweigert, Karen Schweigert
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina Van Scoy
- Section 26: **Russell Allen**, Craig Braack, Dave Cross, Gail Jones, Sally Reinschmidt, Denton Willett
- Section 27: **Russell Allen**, Jim Arthur, Sandy Arthur, Deb Buholz (& Venture Club) Alison Dickinson, Jerry Dickinson, Jackie Merrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsay, Wilma Sanford
- Section 28: **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Carol Behn, Betsy Brooks, Deb Buholz (& Venture Club) Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Gary Cornell, Luann Cornell, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, John Gradoni, Peter Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Barbara Kubiak, Martha Lash, Kathy McDonald, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Evelyn Ramsey, Ora Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Megan Staffel, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Cindy Vance, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells

Number of observers: 242





**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **July - November Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**July 21: Saturday. Jamestown Audubon bird banding demonstration at 10 AM. Breakfast will be offered (\$5) on a first-come first-serve basis.** In thanks for a BOS Special Projects Grant to assist with the Jamestown Audubon MAPS bird banding research, BOS members and friends are invited to visit the bird banding station at Jamestown Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 1600 Riverside Rd., Jamestown, NY on Saturday, July 21 at 10:00 AM. Licensed bander Emily Thomas, and summer interns, will be mist-netting and banding birds from 7 am to noon at the Pavilion Field on the west side of the Audubon property. There is no formal BOS leader for this trip. Those planning to attend may e-mail or call the center ([info@jamestownaudubon.org](mailto:info@jamestownaudubon.org) or 716-569-2345) with questions or to confirm that they will be banding if the weather is in question. In case of rain, banding will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 22. Directions and more information can be found on their website: <http://www.jamestownaudubon.org>.

**July 29: Sunday. Canada shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Aug. 19: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.** This is a half-day count along the northern shore of Lake Erie. If you are interested in participating, call Lynne Landon, compiler, at 716-745-9129 or email at [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu). All members are encouraged to participate.

**Aug. 26: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**September 8: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve for mid-season migrants.** Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Alec Humann ([alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com) or cell 716-604-2971).

**Sept. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night.** Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Oct. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will present "Gull Watching at Niagara and in Ontario." Gulls are fascinating and challenging. This presentation is an excellent preparation for the gull watching season at Niagara. It will help you appreciate and understand the 21 species of gulls found in our region with tips on identification, plumages and aging.

**Oct. 14: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Nov. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

# The Prothonotary

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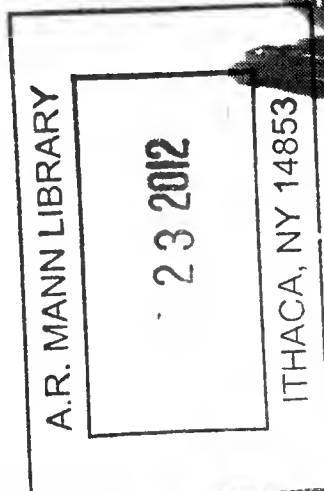
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**Volume 78, No. 6 June 2012**



## THE MONTH: May

*Gerry Rising*

May was very warm and dry overall. Average daily temperature: 63.8°F, almost 7° above the norm; precipitation: 0.9", 2.56" below average. But that doesn't tell the whole story. Except for the 3rd, when the temperature reached 82°, the first half of the month continued the more normal weather of April and all but 0.01" of that rain fell in the first nine days. It was from the 19th on when that July-like heat set in: first a string of three days in the 80s (89° on the 20th) and then another six-day set from the 24th to the 29th. Grass was already turning brown by the end of the month.

All this produced historic record warmth for March through May. But again that overall picture provides misleading ornithological evidence. Birds cannot call ahead to see what the weather is like as they start their northward trek. And the major effect on migration this year was the normal weather of April and early May. Thus all that March heat contributed little or nothing to this year's May records except lots of leaves for the birds to hide behind. Also on the negative side, the lack of frontal activity and stormy weather provided very little in the way of big migration days. A major exception: May 1 was, as Mike Morgante suggests, "a tremendous migration day with widespread reports of numerous migrants and many first of the year arrivals (many of which are more often reported in late April)."

Our team's experience on the May Count suggested, however, that the rest of the month was uninteresting and I considered offering that as a one-line summary of activity. But then the records came in and, as usual, there are a number of interesting observations well worth

reporting. I offer a few highlights.

- |    |                                                                       |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 53 | <b>The Month</b><br><i>William Watson</i>                             |
| 55 | <b>Ripley Hawk Watch 2012</b><br><i>Gil Randell</i>                   |
| 57 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b><br><i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> |
| 64 | <b>BOS May Count 2012</b><br><i>Robert DeLeon</i>                     |
| 68 | <b>Rock Pt Banding Station</b><br><i>James A. Smith</i>               |
| 70 | <b>Calendar</b>                                                       |

**Lingering.** A feature of our area that adds to Big Day lists is the winter birds that remain in small numbers through this month. This year these included late waterfowl like

Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Redhead. More unusual but not unprecedented was the handsome Red-throated Loon on the 30th and 31st at Sinking Ponds. Among the late gulls was a Black-headed Gull on May 1 at Rich Marina, a Glaucous Gull at



(Top) Red-throated Loon photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Sinking Ponds Nature Preserve on May 31<sup>st</sup> and (Bottom) Glossy Ibis photographed by Joe Mitchell at Oak Orchard WMA on May 30th.



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell

V. President: Michael Morgante

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Crescent Beach on the 26th and a rarer Laughing Gull at Dunkirk on the 9th and Rock Point on the 24th.

Among the late land bird records were a number of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills, including a remarkable 150 crossbills on the 15th in Cattaraugus County's Golden Hill State Forest. Also found was a handsome male Lapland Longspur in breeding plumage on May 11 in Wilson.

**Early arrivals.** Very little to report here. Three Whimbrels at Morgan's Point on the 17th and a Mourning Warbler on the 4th at Four Mile Creek SP.

**Exceptional.** There was a major flight of raptors on the 2nd with Ripley contributing the highest counts: 871 Turkey Vultures, 3162 Broad-winged Hawks and 182 Sharp-

shinned Hawks. But Hamburg produced the highlight that day: an American Swallow-tailed Kite, only the third BOS region report.

Two herons added excitement: a Little Blue Heron along Ellicott Creek on the UB North Campus on the 28th and a Glossy Ibis at Oak Orchard on the 30th.

Two early Brewster's Warbler hybrids arrived on May 1: one at Amherst SP, the other at Wilson; others were noted on the 14th and 17th. And a Connecticut Warbler visited East Aurora from the 16th to the 19th. Pairs of Clay-colored Sparrows were noted in Portland on the 19th and at Lakeside Beach SP on the 22nd.

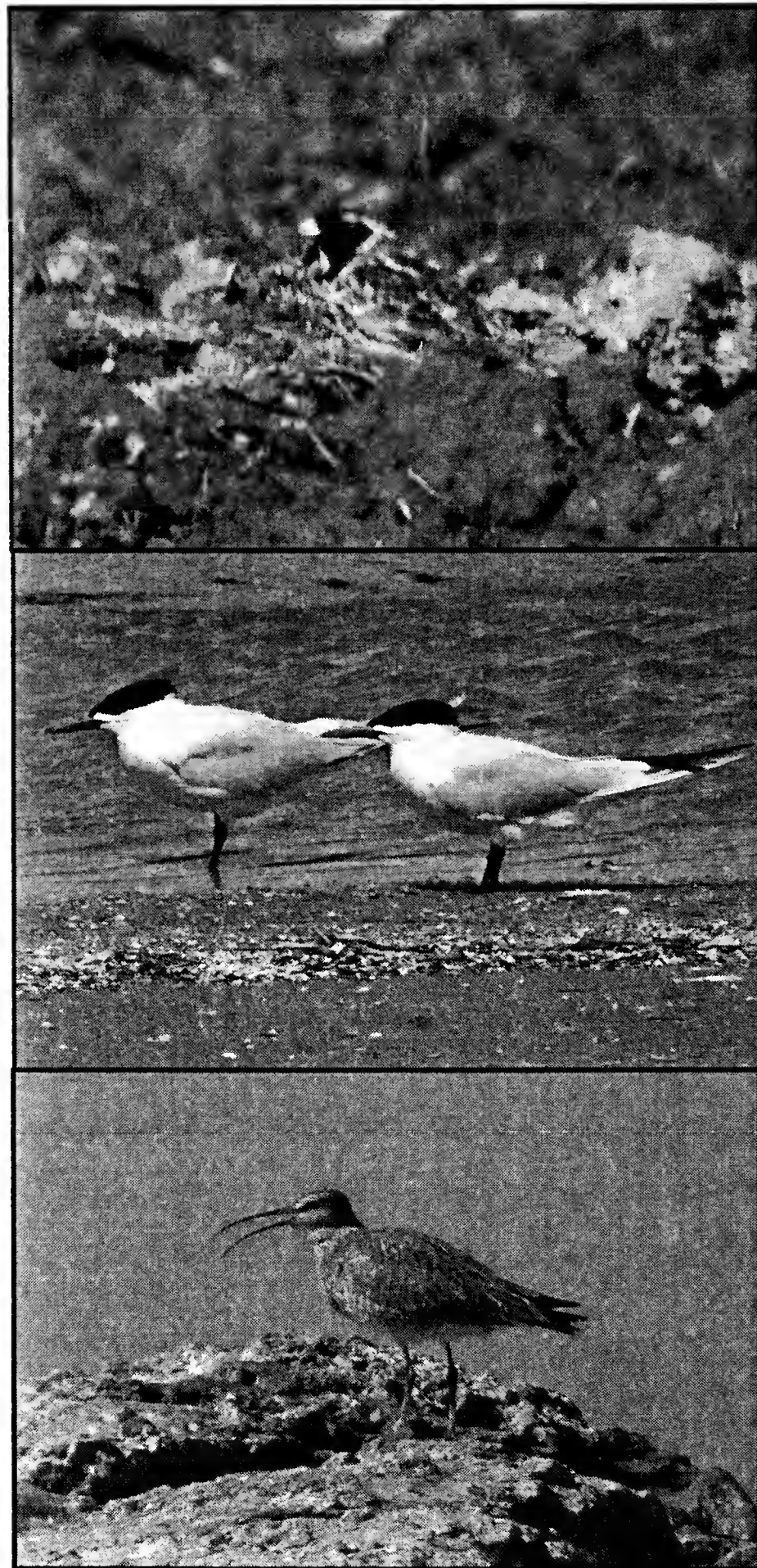
A pair of Trumpeter Swans has apparently taken up residence in Oak Orchard's Windmill Marsh. And a pair of (uncommon) Common Ravens was observed at the Huntley Station on May 2nd and 9th. On the 9th they were closely observed nest-building but no eggs or young were seen. A supervisor there claimed that they nested there in 2011.

I pay too little attention to shorebirds in the spring. I am told that there were impressive numbers of shorebirds in the region in mid-May with high counts of Semipalmated Plover (94) and Least Sandpiper (624) at the Tonawanda WMA and Meadville Marshes on the 16th.

A few nighthawks and whip-poor-wills were reported. It would be great if the new garbage containers would discourage urban crows and allow nighthawks to return to nest on our open roofs.

**Numbers (or number of reports) increasing.** Sandhill Crane, Great Egret, Orchard Oriole.

***Requiescat in pace.*** Henslow's Sparrow.



(Top) Lapland Longspur photographed by Willie D'Anna at Wilson on May 11<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Caspian Terns photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Dunkirk Harbor on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Whimbrel photographed by Kayo Roy at Morgan's Point (Lake Erie) on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



# RIPLEY HAWK WATCH: SPRING 2012

*Gil Randell*

The Ripley Hawk Watch (RHW) is a spring hawk watch located on the south shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles southwest of Buffalo NY. Daily and hourly weather conditions dictate which of the several watch sites, located between the lakeshore and the top of the escarpment, are manned. Within this three-mile range, the elevation rises from 630 to 1,454 feet above mean sea level and there can be considerable variation in weather, particularly with regard to fog and wind. Northerly winds tend to encourage migrants to ride the wind deflected by the face of the escarpment, while southerly winds force the birds north, closer to the Lake Erie shore. Predominantly westerly or easterly winds allow the birds to spread out between the lake and the escarpment.

The RHW shares the south shore of Lake Erie's migration corridor with two other nearby spring watches. The Hamburg Hawk Watch, Hamburg, New York, is located just under 60 miles to the northeast of the RHW; the recently established Presque Isle Hawk Watch, in Erie, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles to the southeast. Species accounts and overall totals often vary surprisingly among the three watches, although there can be interesting correlations.

The 2012 season started on March 11th after the unusually mild winter experienced throughout the continental United States. The shirt-sleeve weather in early March prompted an earlier start to the watch, which typically begins on March 15th. Lake Erie, which significantly influences local weather, was ice-free near the hawk watch all winter. Beginning the season with an open lake dominating the landscape was an unusual experience. Also, local ponds close to Lake Erie typically are frozen at the start of the watch; this year, all were free of ice.

Because of March's unseasonably warm weather, informal counts were taken early in the month, before the 2012 season's official count began on March 11th, and significant numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were observed. Inclement weather closed the watch only one day in March. April saw a few cold and wintry days, with rain, snow or fog closing the watch on five days. The season, which ended May 15th, was closed only one day in May because of rain and fog. Altogether, weather closed the watch seven days in 2012.

Total raptors observed in the 2012 season were down 5,362 (19%) from 2011 to 23,160 birds. Despite the drop from 2011's very strong count, the 2012 total count was the second highest in the ten years that data from the RHW have been reported electronically to HawkCount. Most of the decrease from 2011 can be attributed to a 5,407 bird decline in the Turkey Vulture count. Hours of observation in 2012 (259.5) were up only slightly from 2011 (252.25).

This seasons's Broad-winged Hawk count (9,564) was the strongest in the last ten years, up from 2011's relatively good count of 8,270. This spring over 3,000 birds were recorded on two separate days: 3,210 birds on April 15th and 3,162 on May 2nd. The May 2nd flight was relatively late in the season for such a strong count.

Flights of more than a thousand birds usually occur in April. It is interesting to note that in 2011, after the coldest winter in more than a century, the first broadwing sighting occurred on April 9th; this year, after a record mild winter, the first broadwing of the season also was seen on April 9th.

The Turkey Vulture count for 2012 of 11,064 birds was a significant decline from last years's record of 16,471. This drop could be attributed to early flights of Turkey Vultures seen before the official count began March 11th. Black Vultures continue to put in appearances, with two seen on consecutive days in April.

This year's 139 migrating Bald Eagles surpassed last year's record-setting 132 birds. The migrating Bald Eagles observed in 2012 were supplemented by 131 sightings of non-migrant eagles, making a total of 270 sightings of Bald Eagles over the two months of the watch. The big day for migrating eagles was May 2, with 40 birds tallied, another eagle record that surpassed last year's one-day record of 26 migrating Bald Eagles on May 6th. Three foraging non-migrant Bald Eagles and an immature migrating Golden Eagle put the icing on an amazing eagle day. This year, resident eagle activity between the lake shore and nearby nests was at an all-time high. Proposed industrial wind turbine projects in the migration corridor or adjacent to it continue to cloud the horizon for our expanding populations of resident and migrating eagles.

May 2nd was the kind of day hawk watchers look forward to. Along with the record number of eagles, the count of 74 Ospreys was the site's second-best ever, just shy of last year's 87 Ospreys on April 26th. Four Peregrine Falcons tied the site's daily record set in 2006. And over 1,400 of the day's 3,162 Broad-winged Hawks passed over the watch during one hour. Nice flights of other raptor species were highlighted by 182 Sharp-shinned and 15 Cooper's Hawks.

Nearly half of this year's 165 migrating Ospreys passed over the RHW on May 2nd. The year's Osprey total was a slight decrease from the 2011 rebound (177 birds) after a few years of disappointing Osprey counts. For the second year in a row, 2012 saw several non-migrating Ospreys, reinforcing a sense that a local Osprey resurgence is under way.

After a modest up-tick in 2011, Northern Harrier numbers continued their downward slide of recent years. Both this year's and last year's counts, 92 and 143, respectively, are significantly lower than 2008's count of 259 harriers.

Sharp-shinned Hawks also continued the recent years' pattern of decline after last year's modest upswing. The sharpie count of 1,037 birds in 2012 represented a 34% decrease from 2011 numbers and a 40 % decrease from 2003 numbers. Cooper's Hawk numbers appear fairly stable over the last few years with 86 birds recorded in 2012.

Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks' numbers were all quite low in 2012 (141, 624 and 22, respectively). Informal local observations of significant numbers of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks migrating before the opening of the RHW season may explain this year's low count of these two species. Until

this year, Red-shouldered Hawks had seen five consecutive years of increases, with 343 individuals observed in 2011. Red-tailed Hawk counts are challenging at the RHW because of the ubiquity of local birds that often mimic migratory behavior. Even so, their numbers have appeared to decrease over the last few years. Low numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were anticipated: the mild winter and early spring weather may have limited their southern migration and caused many of the few migrants to return north before the opening of the RHW season.

The American Kestrel count decreased from last year's relatively robust count of 320 birds. This year's total of 161 kestrels was only half the number counted in 2011. Modest numbers of Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were consistent with the counts of recent years.

As with most years, this year's counts of Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks were low. Days when close observation in good light of either species occurs are special. At least one of our Golden Eagle sightings was memorable because of the great looks at the bird. One of our two goshawk sightings included a fairly prolonged tail-chase of a flicker in-and-out of heavy brush within a few hundred feet of the observers: very exciting.

The following table summarizes observations for all raptor species:

#### **RIPLEY HAWK WATCH RAPTOR COUNT 2012**

<b>Species</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Total</b>
Black Vulture 0	2	0	2	
Turkey Vulture	6,042	3,618	1,404	11,064
Osprey	0	70	95	165
Bald Eagle	11	58	70	139
Northern Harrier	22	53	17	92
Sharp-sh. Hawk	143	619	275	1,037
Cooper's Hawk	28	42	16	86
N. Goshawk	0	2	0	2
Red-sh. Hawk	137	4	0	141
Broad-wg. Hawk	0	6,142	3,422	9,564
Red-tailed Hawk	251	245	128	624
Rough-lg. Hawk	6	12	4	22
Golden Eagle0	1	2	3	
American Kestrel	30	126	5	161
Merlin	1	8	0	9
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	7	10
Unknown	6	14	19	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,678</b>	<b>11,018</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>23,160</b>
Hours	90.5	112.75	56.25	259.5

As is true with most hawk watches, the RHW provides excellent general birding opportunities. Two of several species the RHW follows with interest are Common Loons and Sandhill Cranes; loons, because of conservation concerns, especially in New York State; Sandhill Cranes, because the RHW's extreme western location in New York State makes it one of New York's best locations for observing migrating Sandhill Cranes. In 2012 the RHW observed migrating loons on ten different days, a strong total of 34 loons for the season, and Sandhill Cranes on nine different days, totaling 40 Cranes. Loons seen at the RHW are usually very high with fast and steady northerly flight directly toward and

out over Lake Erie. The 2012 sightings of Sandhill Cranes included one day with 13 birds in three different groups, some of which flew directly over observers and low, providing excellent views of the birds.

2012 was the fifth year that weather observations were supported with a Kestrel 4500 Pocket Weather Tracker. This hand-held device replaced a large and cumbersome Davis Instrument Vantage Pro Wireless Weather Station, which had been in use from 2004 through 2007.

The RHW was fortunate to have an enthusiastic crew of 15 talented observers who shared the responsibilities and rigors of managing a spring hawk watch for 260 hours on the often inhospitable south shore of Lake Erie. All counters and observers at the RHW are volunteers, dedicated hawk watchers who generously volunteer their time and fiscal support for the RHW's success. The RHW also depends on the generosity of the three private landowners who graciously encourage our use of their properties. Many thanks are due to all those who make the Ripley Hawk Watch a special and exciting birding opportunity.

Visitors to the watch are welcome. Questions about the RHW should be directed to Gil Randell, site coordinator and official counter at (716) 753-2333; [janngil@fairpoint.net](mailto:janngil@fairpoint.net). Each spring, reports are filed daily on [www.HawkCount.org](http://www.HawkCount.org). These daily reports are archived and summarized on the web site, along with reports from hundreds of other hawk watches, creating an important resource for birders and the general public.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Brant	19	4	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Mute Swan	1-31	2	Golden Hill SP	Many observers
"	11-31	2	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna et al
"	20	2 ad+6 yg	Lyndonville	Watson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	17	2	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
Tundra Swan	6	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell, Watson (BOS)
"	13L	1	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Gadwall	18	2	Hartland	Morgante et al
"	25	4	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Eurasian Wigeon	1 - 3	1 m	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Jacklin
Blue-winged Teal	14	12	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Shoveler	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Northern Pintail	17; 18	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al; Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	28	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien, Mitchell
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Redhead	17	2	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante et al
Ring-necked Duck	18	2	Niagara Falls	Morgante et al
"	27L	2	Iroquois NWR	B&D DeLeon
Greater Scaup	12L	3	Chautauqua Lake	Lenz
Lesser Scaup	3; 25	82; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
White-winged Scoter	7	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bufflehead	3, 11	82, 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Common Goldeneye	18L	4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Common Merganser	28	1 ad, 18 yg	Hamburg	Mitchell
Ruddy Duck	3; 25	69; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
"	4, 27	40, 3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Wild Turkey	16	4	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-throated Loon	18	1	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	30, 31	1	Sinking Ponds NP	M&W Zebehazy et al
Horned Grebe	16; 17	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Morgante, D'Anna
"	26L	3	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	26L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Potter et al
Double-cr. Cormorant	25	450	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	1; 4	1; 1	Tifft NP	D'Anna; Galas, Hacker
"	3	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter, Morien
"	16	3	Tonawanda WMA	Fox
"	21	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
* Least Bittern	5F, 6	1	Tifft NP	Humann, Thomas
"	15	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Mitchell, Young
"	24	4	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Great Egret	5	53 + 43 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	30	34	Iroquois NWR	Watson
* <u>Little Blue Heron</u>	28	1	Amherst	Hollister, Galas, Rising
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3; 4	146; 174	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson, Morien; Walters
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	30	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien, Mitchell, Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Turkey Vulture	2, 3	871, 173	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	3; 5	161; 108	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau et al; Gordon
Osprey	1	2 ad + n	Tifft NP	Watson
"	2	37	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton et al
"	2	74	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	3; 4	1 ad + 2 n; 2	Wheatfield	Watson; M&S Galas
"	30	2 ad + 2 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
* <u>Am. Swallow-tail. Kite</u>	2	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Sisti, Landau, Chilton
Bald Eagle	2	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton et al
"	2	40	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	3	1 +2 yg+n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	25	2 +1 yg+n	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
"	28	3 imm	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	110	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton et al
"	2	182	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Northern Goshawk	5	2	Hanging Bog WMA	McNeill
Broad-winged Hawk	2	1009	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton et al
"	2	3162	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Merlin	2	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	4; 9	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg et al; Fell
"	16, 24,31	1, 1, 1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	1	3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy
"	3; 18	1 ad+yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson; Morgante et al
"	3	1	Wilson	Ewald
"	5	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	6	2	Tifft NP	Beattie, Mitchell
"	10	1	Gallagher Beach, Bflo.	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	24	1	North Buffalo	Yoerg
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Virginia Rail	1	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	3	1	Tillman Rd. WMA	Fell
Sora	1-5	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, Humann et al
"	6	1	Tillman Rd. WMA	Young
Sandhill Crane	2; 9	1; 1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy; Thomas
"	3	4	Golden Hill SP	Morien, D'Anna et al
"	6	2	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	1	Grand Island	Humann
"	11	1	Tifft NP	L. Smith et al
"	27	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Black-bellied Plover	5F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	19	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	15	20	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Young
"	27	13	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
* Semipalmated Plover	12F	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	13	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	15	25	Hartland	D'Anna
"	16; 27	59; 45	TWMA-Cinnamon Mar.	Fox; Morien
"	16	94	TWMA-Meadville Mar.	Fox
Greater Yellowlegs	4	20	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	30L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Mitchell, Thomas
Solitary Sandpiper	15	11	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Morien
* Willet	25	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell, Morien
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	50	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	30	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
"	30	2	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Upland Sandpiper	24	1	Tillman Road WMA	Mitchell
* Whimbrel	<u>17E</u>	3	Morgans Point( Ont)	Roy, B&J Farnan
"	25	11	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
"	25	8; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	26; 27L	4; 1	Morgans Point (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
* Ruddy Turnstone	16F	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	2	Morgans Point (Ont)	Watson
"	25; 27	5; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
* Sanderling	27F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
* Semipalm. Sandpiper	16F; 30	1; 47	Tonawanda WMA	Fox; D'Anna et al
"	19	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28, 31	87, 140	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Least Sandpiper	2	2	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	3	2	Hartland	D'Anna
"	15; 16	300; 624	Tonawanda WMA	Morien, D'Anna; Fox
"	30L	5	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
* White-r. Sandpiper	18F	1	Hartland	D'Anna et al
"	25; 26	1; 3	Morgans Point (Ont)	Watson; D'Anna et al
"	27	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28; 30	7; 6	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	14	5	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Dunlin	11	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	67	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	14, 16,30	32; 52; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Morien; Fox; D'Anna
"	25	21	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
* Short-b. Dowitcher	13F; 17	4; 7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; Jacklin
"	15	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	15; 17	2; 8	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Young; D'Anna
"	17; 30L	10; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morgante et al; Landau
American Woodcock	2	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	26	1 ad + 7 yg	Lowbanks (Ont)	D'Anna et al
* Wilson's Phalarope	18F	1	Hartland	Morgante, D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Black-headed Gull	1	1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	13	300	Lewiston	Walters
"	25	15	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	26	11	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
* Laughing Gull	24	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Black, Salisbury
Iceland Gull	3	1	Pt. Breeze	Fox
"	4	3	Wilson	Ewald
"	8L	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, Morien
L. Black-back. Gull	3	2	Pt. Breeze	Fox
"	4	1	Wilson	Ewald
Glaucous Gull	4; 6	2; 1	Wilson	Ewald; D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	26	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	D'Anna, Morien
"	27L	1 imm	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Caspian Tern	10	67	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Zebehazy
Black Tern	3	24	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	17; 26	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al; Hartquist
"	22	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14F	1	Alfred	Peterson
"	22	1	Alden	Mitchell
* Black-billed Cuckoo	3F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	4	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	5	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Short-eared Owl	5	1	Alexander	Beattie
* Common Nighthawk	10F	1	Buffalo	Thomas
"	15, 19	1, 1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	16; 17	3; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox; Morgante et al
"	17	1	Clarence	Mark Morgante
"	26	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* E. Whip-poor-will	2F	1	Waterport	Klotzbach
"	19-24	1	Great Valley	Schweigert
"	20	6	Wainfleet (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
"	24	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	2F	1 m	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazy
"	2F	1	Alfred	Peterson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	1; 13, 19	1; 4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin; Yoerg
"	4 - 30	2 + n	Lakeside Cem.	Zebehazy
"	5	1	E. Amherst	Lewis
"	6	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann
"	11	1	Buffalo	Humann
"	13	3	Pt. Gratiot	Lenz
"	13	1	Canadaway Creek	Lenz
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell, Young
"	17	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morgante et al
"	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	7F, 9	1, 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan et al
"	9	1	Orchard Park	Brenner
"	9	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Yellow-b. Flycatcher	9F: 27	1, 1	Wilson	Potter; Potter, D'Anna
"	19	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	21	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	22	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	22	1	Amherst	Hollister, Rising
Acadian Flycatcher	23	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien et al
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	29	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Zebehazy
* Alder Flycatcher	13F	1	Stockton	Lenz
"	13F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	14	1	Chautauqua	Lenz
"	14	1	Alden	Young
"	30	11	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
* Willow Flycatcher	14F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	14F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	15	1	Hartland	Mitchell, Young
* Least Flycatcher	1F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan, Mitchell
"	2	5	Tifft NP	Humann
"	2	3	Lancaster	Morgante
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan, D'Anna et al
"	1F	1	Lakeside Cem.	Zebehazy
"	1F	3	Lancaster	Morgante
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Mitchell
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	2F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Philadelphia Vireo	13F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	13F	1	Stockton	Lenz
"	14	1	Wilson	Potter
"	17	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	22	2	Golden Hill SP	Potter, Morien
* Red-eyed Vireo	3F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	5	5	Carroll	Berry
"	5	1	Morgans Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Common Raven	2, 3, 7, 9	1, 1, 2, 2	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Galas et al
"	6	2	Eagle	Fox
"	26	4	Alma	Lazarczyk
Cliff Swallow	26	20 + 27 n	Gallagher Beach, Bflo.	Watson
"	27	8	Niagara Falls	Mitchell
"	29	4 ad + 14 n	UB north campus	Watson
Winter Wren	13	1	Ward	Brooks
"	19	1	Carroll	Berry
"	31	2	Emery Park	Salembier
Marsh Wren	18	1	North Harmony	Berry
Golden-cr. Kinglet	12	1	Wilson	Morgante, D'Anna et al
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	15L	1	Golden Hill SP	Mitchell
* Veery	1F	1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	1F; 2	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	2	3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	2	1	Busti	Berry



<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	14F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	18; 27	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, Morgante; Potter
"	22	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	26	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Swainson's Thrush	2F	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	1	5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Wood Thrush	1	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
American Pipit	12	70	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	27L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Lapland Longspur	<u>11L</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Ovenbird	1	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	D'Anna et al
"	1	2	Lancaster	Morgante
La. Waterthrush	6	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Morgante
"	31	2 ad + 2 yg	Emery Park	Salembier
Northern Waterthrush	1; 4	2; 1	Tifft NP	D'Anna et al; Galas et al
* Golden-wing. Warbler	2F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Mitchell et al
"	2F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Roy
"	3	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Blue-winged Warbler	1F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	1F	1	Lakeside Cem.	Zebehazy
"	1F; 2	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Yoerg et al
* Brewster's Warbler	<u>1F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	<u>1F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	14	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	17	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
* Prothonotary Warbler	4F-17	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien et al
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	Lakeside Cem.	Zebehazy
"	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Morse, Genter
Orange-cr. Warbler	2	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Salembier et al
"	3, 6	2, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	3	1	Goat I.	Watson et al
"	5	1	Hanging Bog WMA	McNeill
"	8	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, Morien
"	10	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Connecticut Warbler	16F – 19	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Mourning Warbler	<u>6F</u>	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	19	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
* Hooded Warbler	2F	1	Busti	Berry
"	3	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Salembier et al
"	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	3	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
* American Redstart	2F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2F	2	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	2F	2	Oakfield	Dart, Beattie
"	2F	1	Morgans Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Roy
* Cape May Warbler	1F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan, D'Anna et al
"	2	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Mitchell et al
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	13	8	Wilson and Porter	D'Anna, Potter
* Cerulean Warbler	5F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	5F	7	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
"	16	1	Lyndonville	Ewald
"	18	1	Somerset	Morgante et al
"	24	1	Alma	Lazarczyk, Rising
"	24	1	Point Abino (Ont)	B&J Farnan
* Northern Parula	2F	2	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	2F, 4	1, 3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
* Magnolia Warbler	1F	1	Lakeside Cem.	Zebehazy
"	2	1	Wilson	Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier et al
* Bay-breasted Warbler	5F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	7	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	7	1	Morgans Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Blackburnian Warbler	1; 2	2; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Yoerg et al
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	2F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	2F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2F, 3	2, 2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
* Blackpoll Warbler	2F	1	Morgans Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Roy
"	3, 13	1, 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	12	2	Delaware Pk., Bflo	Barton
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	1F	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Potter et al
"	1F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	1F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Palm Warbler	19L	1	Golden Hill SP	Frauen
Yellow-r. Warbler	1	65	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
"	4	61	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-thr. Warbler	2	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	9	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Humann, Barton, Fell
* Prairie Warbler	5F	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	6	4	Eagle	Fox
"	18	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	19	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	19	1	Carroll	Berry
"	24	2	Point Abino (Ont)	Black, Salisbury et al
"	28	7	Yorkshire	Potter, D'Anna
* Canada Warbler	2F	1	Amherst SP	Young
"	6	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6-10	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan et al
* Wilson's Warbler	6F	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell, Watson (BOS)
"	8	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
* Clay-col. Sparrow	19	2	Portland	Hardenburg
"	22	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Morien et al
Vesper Sparrow	18	1	Newfane	D'Anna et al
"	19, 20	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
* Grasshopper Sparrow	1F-18	2	Artpark SP	Kerr et al
"	17	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Fox
"	21	5	Royalton	Morien
"	24	1	Newstead	Mitchell
* Lincoln's Sparrow	1F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna et al
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Young
White-thr. Sparrow	1	51	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	30L	1	Tifft NP	Rising
Scarlet Tanager	2	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	2	1	Busti	Berry
"	3	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
* Indigo Bunting	4F	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	4F, 8	1, 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
* Bobolink	1F, 2	1, 1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	1F	2	Yates	Klotzbach
"	2	2	Newfane	D'Anna
"	2	6	Bethany	Beattie
Rusty Blackbird	4	152	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	8	140	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	11	1	Wilson	D'Anna
* Orchard Oriole	2F	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	3	3	Morgans Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	4	2	Portland	Hardenburg
"	5	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	13	4	Canadaway Creek	Lenz

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18, 20	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	15	3	Medina	Morien
"	18	2	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	22-31	1-2	Hinsdale	Reed
"	24	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
Baltimore Oriole	1	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	1	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
White-winged Crossbill	1	10	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	15	<u>150</u>	Golden Hill SF	Reed
"	13; 18	15; 4	Greenwood Cem.	D'Anna; Morgante et al
Pine Siskin	1 - 20	2 - 40	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
"	1 - 31	2	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	4, 5	8, 7	NE Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	9	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	12	40	Wilson	Morgante, Potter et al
"	19,27,31	8, 1, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	24	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:	206
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month (including May Count):	62
<b>Total for the year 2012:</b>	<b><u>268</u></b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



Caspian Terns and Ring-billed Gulls photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Dunkirk Harbor on May 10<sup>th</sup>.



# Report of the 2012 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 20, 2012

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

## Weather Synopsis

Clear, sunny and warm.

Sunrise: 5:47 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:37 PM EDT

Time (EDT)	Temp.	Pressure	Visibility	Wind Dir	Wind Speed	Precip
12:00 AM	63.0 °F	30.16 in	10.0 mi	SE	3.5 mph	-
3:00 AM	61.0 °F	30.16 in	10.0 mi	SE	4.6 mph	-
6:00 AM	59.0 °F	30.17 in	10.0 mi	SE	4.6 mph	-
9:00 AM	71.1 °F	30.20 in	10.0 mi	Calm	Calm	-
12:00 PM	82.9 °F	30.19 in	10.0 mi	Calm	Calm	-
3:00 PM	87.1 °F	30.14 in	10.0 mi	Calm	Calm	-
6:00 PM	86.0 °F	30.09 in	10.0 mi	NE	10.4 mph	-
9:00 PM	75.9 °F	30.08 in	10.0 mi	NNE	8.1 mph	-
12:00 PM	73.9 °F	30.07 in	10.0 mi	SSE	8.1 mph	-

Lake Erie water temperature: 57 °F

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

<b>G e e s e - H e r o n s</b>			
Canada Goose	4131	Red-breasted Merganser	229
Mute Swan	33	Ruddy Duck	4 (13)
Wood Duck	351	Unspecified waterfowl	2
Gadwall	14 (8,10,13)	Ring-necked Pheasant	25
American Black Duck	2 (13)	Ruffed Grouse	26
Mallard	592	Wild Turkey	83
Blue-winged Teal	4 (5,20)	Common Loon	6
Northern Shoveler	6 (4,10,13)	Pied-billed Grebe	72
Green-winged Teal	3 (8,10,19)	Double-crested Cormorant	3769
Canvasback	L 1 (2)	American Bittern	3 (10)
Lesser Scaup	2 (8)	Great Blue Heron	425
White-winged Scoter	L 7 (5,26)	Great Egret	49
Long-tailed Duck	L 8 (4)	<b>Snowy Egret</b>	* 1 (7)
Bufflehead	L 2 (2)	Green Heron	41
Hooded Merganser	34	Black-crowned Night-Heron	21
Common Merganser	19		
<b>V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s</b>			
Turkey Vulture	500	Red-tailed Hawk	149
Osprey	25	American Kestrel	52
Bald Eagle	40	Peregrine Falcon	5 (11)
Northern Harrier	4 (7,17,20)	unspecified hawks	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	Virginia Rail	3 (9,11,22)
Cooper's Hawk	14	Sora	3 (7,9,22)
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	Common Gallinule	5 (10,13)
Broad-winged Hawk	13	American Coot	19
<b>P l o v e r s - T e r n s</b>			
Black-bellied Plover	2 (6)	Dunlin	222
Semipalmated Plover	27	Wilson's Snipe	2 (3)

Killdeer	353		American Woodcock	9
Greater Yellowlegs	2	(12,17)	Unspecified shorebirds	32
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	(8,10,22)	Bonaparte's Gull	231
Solitary Sandpiper	3	(4,17,22)	Ring-billed Gull	7438
Spotted Sandpiper	82		Herring Gull	298
Upland Sandpiper	4	(6,10)	Great Black-backed Gull	16
Ruddy Turnstone	2	(5)	Caspian Tern	115
Semipalmated Sandpiper	26		Common Tern	145
Least Sandpiper	132		Black Tern	24 (10)
Pectoral Sandpiper	L 2	(16)		

### Pigeons - Swallows

Rock Pigeon	696		Alder Flycatcher	45
Mourning Dove	1140		Willow Flycatcher	107
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5		Least Flycatcher	60
Black-billed Cuckoo	22		Unspecified Empidonax	9
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	(4,12,13)	Eastern Phoebe	221
Great Horned Owl	6		Great-crested Flycatcher	256
Barred Owl	13		Eastern Kingbird	284
Common Nighthawk	2	(13,14)	Yellow-throated Vireo	16
Whip-poor-will	9	(7,24)	Blue-headed Vireo	34
Chimney Swift	198		Warbling Vireo	430
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	164		Philadelphia Vireo	8
Belted Kingfisher	76		Red-eyed Vireo	477
Red-headed Woodpecker	22		Blue Jay	701
Red-bellied Woodpecker	219		American Crow	1473
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	69		Common Raven	17
Downy Woodpecker	162		Horned Lark	51
Hairy Woodpecker	69		Purple Martin	505
Northern Flicker	268		Tree Swallow	946
Pileated Woodpecker	41		Bank Swallow	263
Olive-sided Flycatcher	* 1	(12)	N. Rough-winged Swallow	299
	F			
Eastern Wood Pewee	165		Cliff Swallow	173
Acadian Flycatcher	* 2	(12,22)	Barn Swallow	1576
	F			

### Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee	575		Veery	115
Tufted Titmouse	130		Gray-cheeked Thrush	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	33		Swainson's Thrush	25
White-breasted Nuthatch	116		Hermit Thrush	30
Brown Creeper	9		Wood Thrush	244
Carolina Wren	38		American Robin	4881
House Wren	420		Gray Catbird	1268
Winter Wren	11		Northern Mockingbird	54
Marsh Wren	13	(7,11,22)	Brown Thrasher	75
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23		European Starling	5231
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16		American Pipit	3 (4)
Eastern Bluebird	247		Cedar Waxwing	701

### Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler	118		Bay-breasted Warbler	31
Tennessee Warbler	27		Blackpoll Warbler	205
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	(3)	Cerulean Warbler	15
Nashville Warbler	16		Black-and-white Warbler	26
Northern Parula	10		American Redstart	264
Yellow Warbler	2208		Ovenbird	155
Chestnut-sided Warbler	226		Northern Waterthrush	8
Magnolia Warbler	118		Louisiana Waterthrush	1 (24)
Cape May Warbler	5	(4,12) 65	Mourning Warbler	37

Black-throated Blue Warbler	40	Common Yellowthroat	975	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	57	Hooded Warbler	139	
Black-throated Green Warbler	83	Wilson's Warbler	14	
Blackburnian Warbler	85	Canada Warbler	23	
Pine Warbler	9	Yellow-breasted Chat	*F 1	(14)
Prairie Warbler	20	Unspecified warblers	24	
Palm Warbler	20			
<b>Tanagers – House Sparrows</b>				
Scarlet Tanager	99	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	341	
Eastern Towhee	171	Indigo Bunting	164	
Chipping Sparrow	785	Bobolink	914	
Clay-colored Sparrow	2 (20)	Red-winged Blackbird	5064	
Field Sparrow	182	Eastern Meadowlark	155	
Vesper Sparrow	5	Rusty Blackbird	L 1	(5)
Savannah Sparrow	294	Common Grackle	2665	
Grasshopper Sparrow	13	Brown-headed Cowbird	573	
Song Sparrow	1403	Orchard Oriole	11	
Swamp Sparrow	84	Baltimore Oriole	826	
White-throated Sparrow	29	Purple Finch	91	
White-crowned Sparrow	13	House Finch	207	
Unspecified sparrows	30	Pine Siskin	7	
Dark-eyed Junco	136	American Goldfinch	1250	
Northern Cardinal	724	House Sparrow	1625	

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 194 (lowest since 1998)  
Total individual birds observed: 68,397 (lowest since 1991)  
Number of observers: 195

COMMENTS: In spite of the sunny warm weather, 2012 was not a particularly good count. The combination of a late date (May 20<sup>th</sup>) and the unusually early warm spring led to full foliage and difficult viewing conditions. The early spring may also have encouraged migrants to pass through before the count.

#### HIGH COUNTS FOR 2012 (COMPARED TO 1968-2012)

The following species recorded a high count in 2012 which was 2 standard deviations above their average count for 1965-2012: Mute Swan 33 (highest), Wood Duck 351 (highest), Pied-billed Grebe 72 (highest), Double-crested Cormorant 3769 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Osprey 25 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Bald Eagle 40 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Whip-poor-will 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Red-bellied Woodpecker 219 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Eastern Wood Pewee 165 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Alder Flycatcher 45 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Willow Flycatcher 107 (highest), Warbling Vireo 430 (highest), Carolina Wren 38 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Gray Catbird 1268 (highest), Northern Mockingbird 54 (highest), Cedar Waxwing 701 (3<sup>rd</sup> highest), Prairie Warbler 20 (highest), Blackpoll Warbler 205 (highest), Common Yellowthroat 975 (3<sup>rd</sup> highest).

#### LOW COUNTS FOR 2012 (COMPARED TO 1968-2012)

The following species recorded their lowest count in the modern period of 1965-2012: Blue-winged Teal 4, Solitary Sandpiper 3, Yellow-rumped Warbler 57, White-crowned Sparrow 13.

#### NOTABLE SPECIES MISSING FROM THE COUNT FOR 2012

The following species were missing from the 2012 count. The number of times each species was observed in the 48 year period from 1965-2012 and the average count during that time-span is also shown: Ruby-crowned Kinglet 47/48 average count 49, Palm Warbler 44/48 average count 20, Golden-winged Warbler 42/48 average count 15, Evening Grosbeak 40/48 average count 57.

#### NOTABLE RARE SIGHTINGS WITH VERIFICATION REPORTS FOR 2012

Snowy Egret (Joe Fell Section 7), Clay-colored Sparrow (Carol Hardenburg Section 20).



OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.):

**Section 1:** **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

**Section 2:** Brian Ahara, Manley Baarda, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz

**Section 3:** Willie D'Anna, **David Gordon**, Elizabeth Kerr, Tom Kerr, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Brianne Tulumello, John Welte, Martha Welte, Anita Wierzba

**Section 4:** Julie Eberhart, Brooke Genter, Brian Morse, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

**Section 5:** Lynn Batt, Morgan Jones, James Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

**Section 6:** **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple

**Section 7:** H. M. Bateman, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Joseph Fell**, Jim Horn, Charles Smith

**Section 8:** Peter BonEnfant, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, **Mike Zebehazy**

**Section 9:** Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Christopher Hollister, Karen Lee Lewis, Debra Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Frank Voelker

**Section 10:** Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**

**Section 11:** **Thomas O'Donnell**, Chuck Rosenberg

**Section 12:** Chris Betrus, Joe Carlo, Greg Coniglio, Paul Fuhrmann, Denise Goulding, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Sarah Piecuch

**Section 13:** **Doug Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Tony Ciambor, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Bill Kistner, KimMarie Markel, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Coleen Moultrup, Steve Moltrup, Jane Schmieder, Judy Spring, Don Thureau, Ginny Tiede

**Section 14:** Robert Andrie, Patricia Andrie, Ken Brandes, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glenna Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Carolyn Willington

**Section 15:** **Edward Ratajczak**, Sally Uzunov

**Section 16:** Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Francis Rew**, George Robbins

**Section 17:** **Joe Mitchell**, Bert Schweigert

**Section 18:** **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Rick Thomas, Jim Wojewodzki

**Section 19:** **Russell Allen**, Ron Andrews, Veronica Barber, Betty Bledsoe, Kathy Curser, James Fegley, Eli Knapp, Jonathan Meilaender, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, John Miller, Rudy Miller, Virginia Norton, Sean, Phelan, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**

**Section 20:** Nan Bowser, David Bryant, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Terry Mahoney, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Diana Robinson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Jeannie Smith, Ted Taft

**Section 21:** Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Laha, Steve Maggio, Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vanstrom

**Section 22:** Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Laha, Susan Lawton, Ruth Lundin, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen,, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 23:** Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Laha, Susan Lawton, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha

**Section 25:** **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Mike Landowski, Jim Pomeroy, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy

**Section 26:** **Russell Allen**, Eli Knapp, Denton Willett, **Larry Wilson**

**Section 27:** **Russell Allen**, Alison Dickinson, Jerry Dickerson, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Wilma Sanford

**Section 28:** **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Betsy Brooks, Ken Burdick, **Diane Converso**, Mary-Lou Cartledge, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Joyce Krupnik, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipal, Ken Reichman, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Maureen Soule, Tarah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Katie Weiman, **Mary Lou Wells**

## Rock Point Bird Banding Station

*James A. Smith* ([www.rockpointbirdbanding.com](http://www.rockpointbirdbanding.com))

Many of you identify Rock Point as your farthest point on your Shorebird inventory. Some of you have even visited the Bird Banding Station but I can't say that I have identified too many members from your organization. Sometimes this is due to a lack of awareness that the banding station even exists or perhaps a dislike for the whole idea of catching birds and putting bands on them. Let me assure you that we are open to visitors.

This year marks my 13<sup>th</sup> Fall Season banding birds at Rock Point. We have consistently banded for 6 days out of the week from April 1 to June 1 and again from mid July to the first week in November. We do take Sundays off just so I can get to know my family again in the mornings. Rainy days also mean that we are closed.

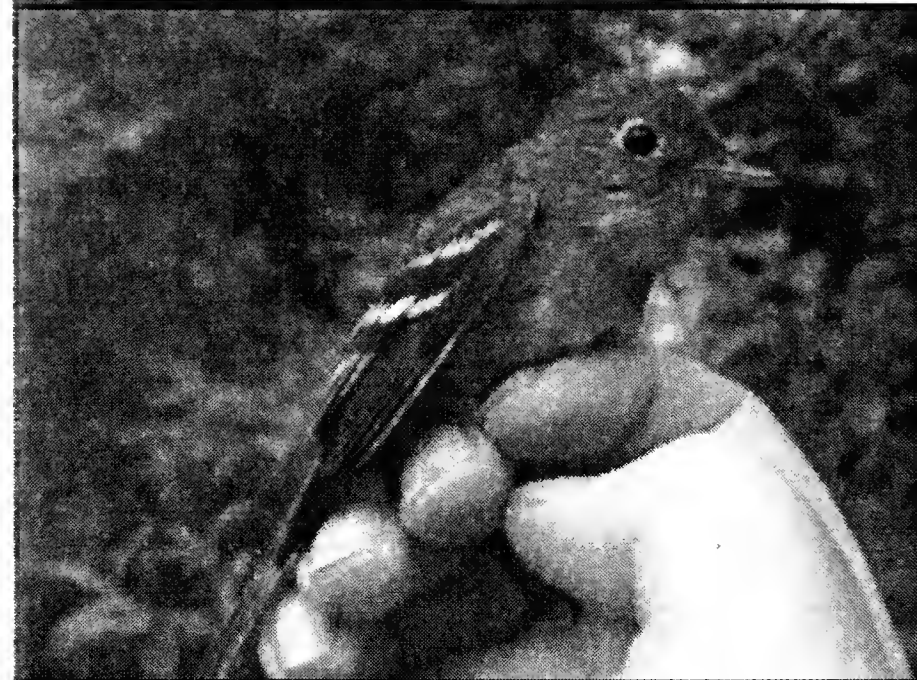
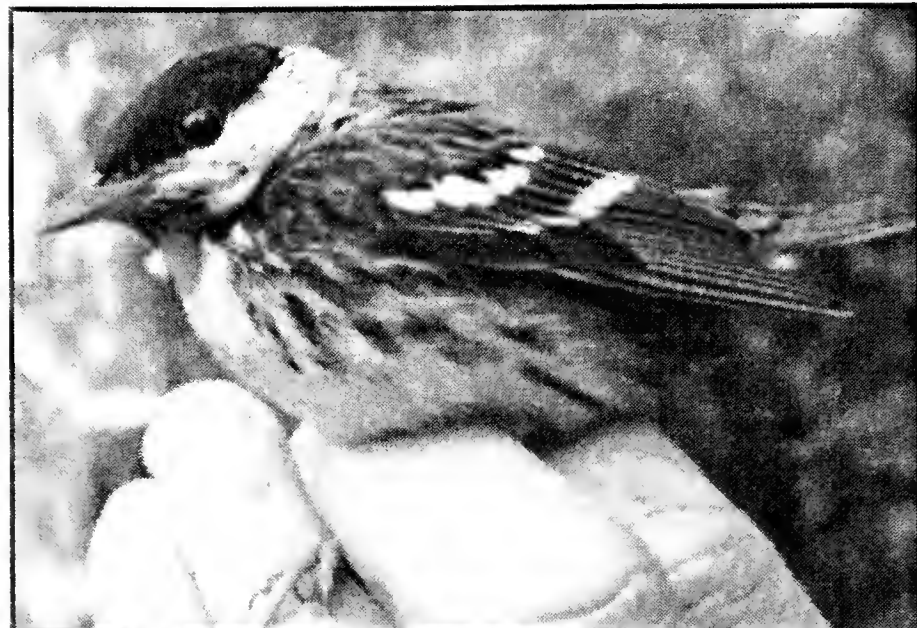
I have been thrilled at the response I have had in finding volunteers from many parts of the world. My local volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Distance volunteers have come from various parts of Canada, U.S.A., Spain, Germany, Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. They all have one thing in common and that is to learn how to sex, age, and take statistics on Eastern North American Birds. They add this experience to their resumes and hope to use it in future jobs. The ability to show off our wonderful birds to these individuals gives me great satisfaction. To have them express awe at a Blackburnian Warbler or even the subtle markings of a Lincoln's Sparrow gives me great satisfaction.

For two years before starting the Rock Point Banding Station I trained with John Miles, a bander at Selkirk Provincial Park. In 2000 I retired from teaching and started up the station after receiving permission from Ontario Parks and a bird banding license from the Canadian Wildlife Service. In 2001 I traveled to San Francisco and took a weeklong course with Peter Pyle who has written the book entitled "Identification Guide to North American Birds" which is used extensively by all bird banders in North America. I took another course in Nova Scotia, and was almost trapped on an island by an approaching hurricane. I passed the course offered by the North America Banding Council and 31 years of teaching enables me to do quite a good job in instructing volunteers in all aspects of bird banding.

So, at this time I do not consider that I am a man with a hobby that involves the trapping of birds. It has evolved into something much more and even though we are all volunteers it is a job.

Canada is fortunate in having an organization called the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network which is a group of independently funded banding organizations stretching from British Columbia in the west, to Nova Scotia in the east, and up into the Yukon in the north. The 10 year data gathered from these far flung stations is used by Bird Studies Canada to develop trends which are used to predict what species or group of birds are seriously in need of conservation.

Environment Canada on behalf of North American Bird Conservation Initiative Canada (NABCI Canada) in the past couple of months published, "The State of Canada's Birds 2012" In December 2008 Bird Studies



(Top and Middle) Male and Female Blackpoll Warblers photographed by Beverly Stevenson at Rock Pt Banding Station on May 21<sup>st</sup> and (Bottom) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher photographed by Beverly Stevenson at Rock Pt Banding Station on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Canada published "The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network-Reseau canadien de surveillance des migrations: Ten-Year Report on Monitoring Landbird Population Change" In the 36 page booklet State of Canada's Birds 2012 pg. 4 it states "On average, Canadian breeding bird populations have decreased 12% since 1970 when effective monitoring began for most species. For species with sufficient data to monitor their status, 44% have decreased, 33% have increased and 23% have shown little overall change. Some groups, such as grassland birds, aerial insectivores and

shorebirds, are showing major decline. Other groups such as waterfowl, raptors and colonial seabirds are increasing, due to careful management, changes in habitat and reductions in environmental contaminants."

These papers point out that we no longer care where the birds are going since this information has been well documented. Now our emphasis is on the trends and the conservation efforts not only in Canada but also in conjunction with the U.S., Mexico, Caribbean and South American countries. My little organization would like to think that we contribute to the overall picture needed to look closely at species of birds.

Many variables come into play when collecting data. Things like habitat change, which even in my small area is noticeable and varies the species or number of birds that are monitored. We went from dogwood and viburnum that we could see over the top to our present 3-meter tall bushes. Ten years from now we will be a spruce forest. Such things as weather and prevailing winds also change how many and what we catch. Spring of 2010 comes to mind when all stations along the Great Lakes seemed to have birds go farther west or east. That fall, species and numbers were back to normal so something changed the bird's direction in the spring but did not impact on the breeding results. My numbers were reduced after the first three years of banding but have been consistent in the last six years. Some species like American Goldfinch and Yellow Warbler have shown a decline in the park but not as a species. Hooded Warblers, which I never caught in the first years, have been caught in the past few years. A Worm-Eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo were all surprises in the past few years. Variables perhaps caused by climate change. In looking at my own data I have to be careful, because of variables, not to make general statements about the state of individual species. In conjunction with other Canadian Migration Monitoring Stations my data takes on more significance and may point to the need for further conservation if member stations also show decline in species.

I can tell you a few facts based on the latest data produced by Ontario Bird Banding 2011, Volume 42 that looks at 2010. Haldimand, which has one other station including my station, banded 12,622 birds. The top birds banded in Ontario were Snow Bunting 11,557, Black-capped Chickadee 5,208, American Goldfinch 5,021 and Golden-crowned Kinglet 4,659. The top warblers to be banded were Yellow-rumped Warbler 2,721, Magnolia Warbler 2,274, Blackpoll Warbler 1,800 and Yellow Warbler 1,356. Top Sparrows were White-throated Sparrow 4,519, Dark-eyed Junco 2,659, Song Sparrow 1,761 and American Tree Sparrow 1,312. A total of 286 species were banded in Ontario.(pg. 17,18,19,20,21,22)

So what do we do with the birds? Firstly the nets are never open when we are not present. They are furled up and look like a rope. On arriving in the predawn light we open the nets that stand about 3 meters tall and are 12 meters in length. There are presently 20 nets located in 10 locations. About half an hour after opening we do a net round and collect any birds that are in the nets. We do net rounds every half hour or sooner if we are catching a lot of birds. The birds are carefully removed from the nets and placed in a cloth bag and returned to the banding station. Some birds lie quietly in the nets and others like

Gray Catbirds like to scream their heads off when they are being removed. They receive the same treatment as the quiet birds so it is just a characteristic of catbirds and not that they are being harmed. Some birds like chickadees like to keep pounding at a finger the whole time they are being removed. Some like Northern Cardinals and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks like to leave a mark on a finger just because they can. Shrikes like to cut fingers and leave them bleeding. Wrens like to keep hopping around in the net until they are wonderfully tangled. Cedar Waxwings like to poop all over the person taking them out. Each species is different.

Once the birds are brought back to the station they are left in the individual bags. Within a half hour, or at the very most an hour, they are back flying and have forgotten the whole experience. I know they forget because of some birds that are caught over and over again with little remembrance that this particular shadow catches them. These recaptures are also recorded. Birds from previous years are also recaptured and make for some interesting data. Without the bands we would never know if we were recapturing the same bird. We had to change to steel bands for Cardinals and Grosbeaks because we became aware that they were removing the bands making for inflated data on the number of those species that we banded.

We identify the species, band the bird, figure out the sex of the bird, the age of the bird by using feather clues, measure the wing, the amount of fat on the bird, and weigh the bird. This is all done within about 3 minutes for each bird for even the slowest bander. Everything is written down, later entered into a computer program and at the end of the season sent to Canadian Wildlife Service who review the data and send it on to Patuxent, Maryland to join all the bird banding data for North America.

I have enjoyed my years, seen Lake Erie in every season and every condition. I have marveled at the dew covered spider webs covering the field next to the lanes. Sworn at the Screech Owl who firmly grabbed my middle finger and was disinclined to let it go, all the time an Irish photographer was yelling at me to not let the bird go. I was almost speechless at the Scarlet Tanager in my hand. I enjoyed solving world problems between net rounds with some of the best people in the world who have been willing to give myself and the birds the benefit of their time. I have been thrilled by the support given to me by such organizations as T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Niagara Trailers, Niagara Falls Nature Club and individual donors too numerous to mention. I am indebted to Parks Ontario for the chance to do scientific research within Rock Point Provincial Park. I have frozen in early April and been seared in August. I have watched and recorded the passing of the seasons from the Tundra Swans in March to the Juncos in November. I am convinced that I am doing my part in the gathering of data leading to the conservation of birds.

So the next time you go to the point to see the Shorebirds, at least give a thought to Rock Point Bird Banding Station at the other side of the park, and the people who are doing their best to preserve and monitor what we have, in the hopes of a more bird productive future.





[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## July - November Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Aug. 19: CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEERS** Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.

**Aug. 26: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Sept. 8: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve for migrants.** Leader: Alec Humann ([alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com) or cell 716-604-2971). Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft NP parking lot. This is a half-day trip. .

**Sept. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night.** Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Oct. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will present "Gull Watching at Niagara and in Ontario." Gulls are fascinating and challenging. This presentation is an excellent preparation for the gull watching season at Niagara. It will help you appreciate and understand the 21 species of gulls found in our region with tips on identification, plumages and aging.

**Oct. 14: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** Compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Nov. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

## Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip - May 6

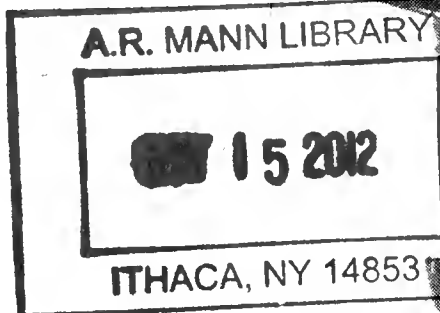
*Joseph Mitchell*

The annual Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip on May 6th started at 7:30 am with about 20 birders. A few more people joined us as the day went on and I believe we topped out somewhere around 23 participants! The weather was beautiful all day. After the flurry of migration early last week, things seemed to slow down a bit with some birds moving on without other ones moving in. Regardless, we still managed to see 67 species on the day including 8 warbler species.

Starting at Lake Kirsty, we had two Black-crowned Night Herons and the two resident Ospreys. Walking back toward the bridge, we met Mike Morgante on his way out and he pointed us to a Solitary Sandpiper on the shoreline (Thank you, Mike). On the way to the Mosquito Junction trail we saw Palm, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers along with Gray Catbird and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. Walking along the Berm Pond was very quiet with only distant Marsh Wrens and Swamp Sparrows singing. The South Viewing Blind added Common Yellowthroat and as we approached the intersection of the Boardwalk Trail and the Service Rd. we found a Black-throated Blue Warbler and a Northern Waterthrush. Warbling Vireo, and several House Wrens were added on the way over to Old Tifft St. On Old Tifft there were two Peregrine Falcons soaring. On Snakeroot Trail we added Magnolia Warbler and had a very cooperative Black-throated Blue. Least Flycatcher and Wood Thrush came on the way to Heritage Boardwalk. There wasn't much activity along the boardwalk aside from two Sora that flew out very briefly but were not seen by many in the group. Rabbit Run East was more productive giving us two very close Black-throated Blues, Wilson's and Magnolia Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. Lisa Pond provided a Common Gallinule and a couple Hooded Mergansers. The Tundra Swan was still on Beth Pond and as we headed back we saw additional Palm Warblers, a Magnolia, a Veery that was seen by one member of the group, and an Eastern Kingbird. As we disbanded at the Visitor's Center, I decided to walk the mounds quickly and added Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow and N. Rough-winged Swallow.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 78, No. 7 July 2012

### THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

The National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "a pleasantly warm start to summer with no significant weather events." The month started off cool and unsettled then finished with above-normal temperatures being more common than below-normal temperatures. The average temperature of 68.2°F was 1.9°F above the normal. There was no extreme heat, though a new record high minimum of 73°F was set on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Rainfall totaled 2.68 inches, 0.98 inch below the normal 3.66 inches for this month. The bulk of the rain fell during the first three days of the month when 1.95 inches was recorded by the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last eighteen days of the month were quite dry with just 0.03 inch of rain falling during this stretch.

As might be expected, sunshine was prevalent, shining 65% of the possible time. Lake Erie warmed steadily to 71°F at the end of the month, warmer than normal, but not a record.

The most unusual birding record for the month occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Tifft Nature Preserve. Joe Mitchell documented his sighting of an American White Pelican spotted there, a bird first discovered by Chris Hollister. The pelicans seemed to be on the move this spring. Mitchell had also seen an individual of this species at Oak Orchard WMA earlier in the year. This is only the third June record of American White Pelican in BOS archives and the first since Watson's record of a sighting on Strawberry Island during June 1997.

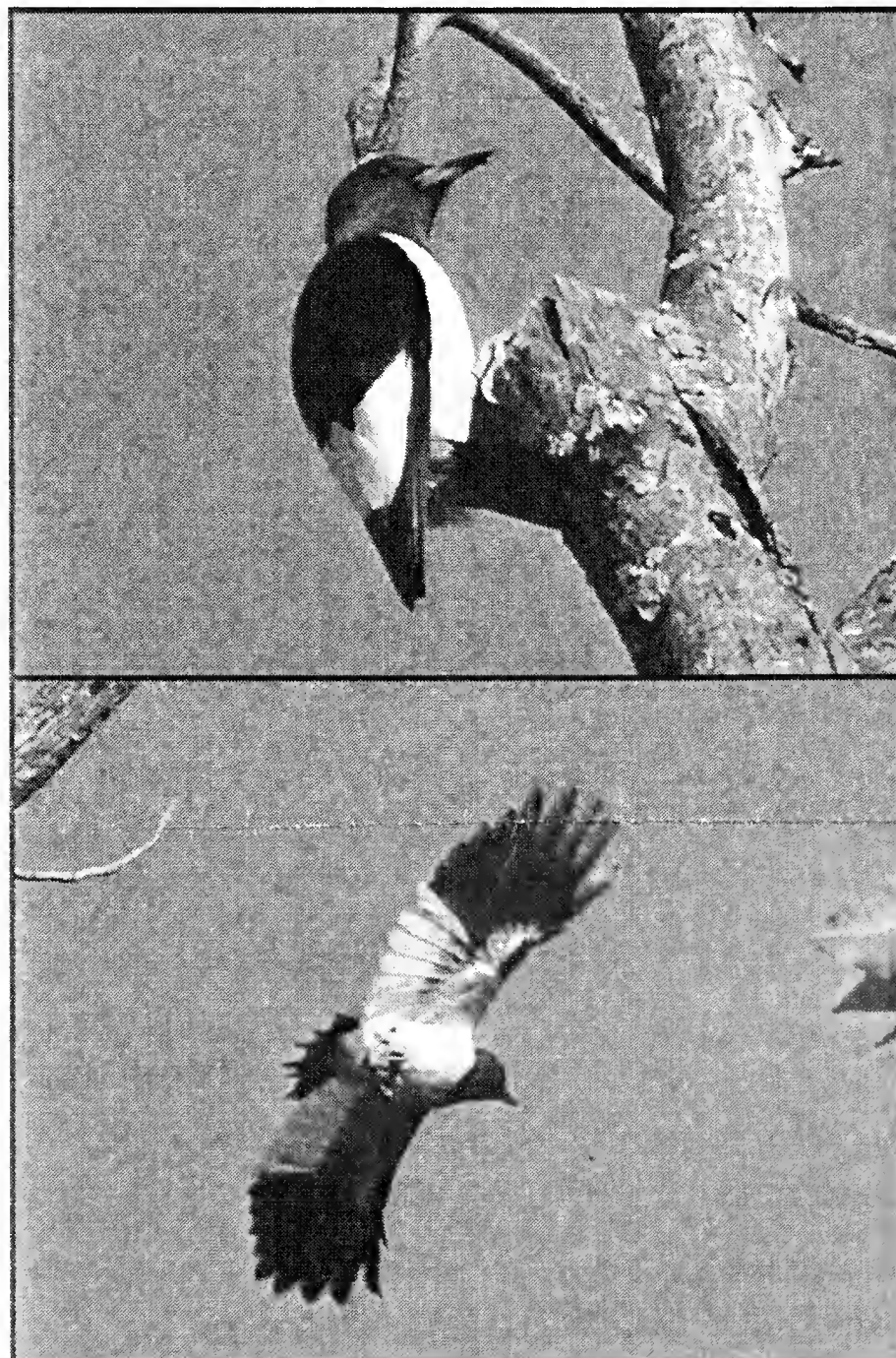
Willie D'Anna spotted a soaring Black Vulture at Lewiston on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Black Vultures in this area have been noted throughout the previous months, but this is the first June record of Black Vulture in the BOS archives.

Peregrine Falcons continue their presence along the Niagara River. Bill Watson reported an adult Peregrine Falcon along with three youngsters at Niagara Falls,

Ontario on the 6<sup>th</sup> and then saw four juveniles at that location on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Peter Yoerg reported a Peregrine Falcon

at the University of Buffalo, South Campus on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kayo Roy saw two adult Sandhill Cranes at Niagara Falls, Ontario on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas has showed confirmed nesting of this species in the Ontario portion of our region. Given the sightings of this



Red-headed Woodpecker photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Orchard Park on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- 71 **The Month**  
*Mike DeSha*
- 73 **Noteworthy Records**  
*Bruce Chilton & Statisticians*
- 82 **Calendar**



The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

**Publishing:** Audrey Horbett

**Editorial Consultants:** Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

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species in Chautauqua County in previous years, it would not surprise me to have documented nesting of this species in the New York portion of our region within the next few years.

The highlights for the gull watchers during the month were three Little Gulls spotted on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Fort Niagara by D'Anna and Andy Guthrie and a Laughing Gull found by Bill Watson and later seen by Marcie Jacklin on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Waverly Beach in Fort Erie, Ontario. Except for last year, Little Gulls have made regular appearances on the Niagara River in June of the past few years. But this is only the third record of a Laughing Gull in June. Watson documented the sighting, distinguishing this individual from a Franklin's Gull or Black-headed Gull by

its under-wing pattern among other characteristic marks.

D'Anna documented his sighting of a Forster's Tern on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Olcott Beach, Niagara County. He distinguished this Forster's Tern from a nearby Common Tern by "bill size, leg length, bill and leg color, and black mask which could still be discerned despite incoming black on the head."

There were a number of reports of Red-headed Woodpecker this month, which is welcome news about this declining species. Mike Zebehazy noted two adults at a nest in Hamburg throughout the month.

Rosenburg found a Sedge Wren at Knox Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

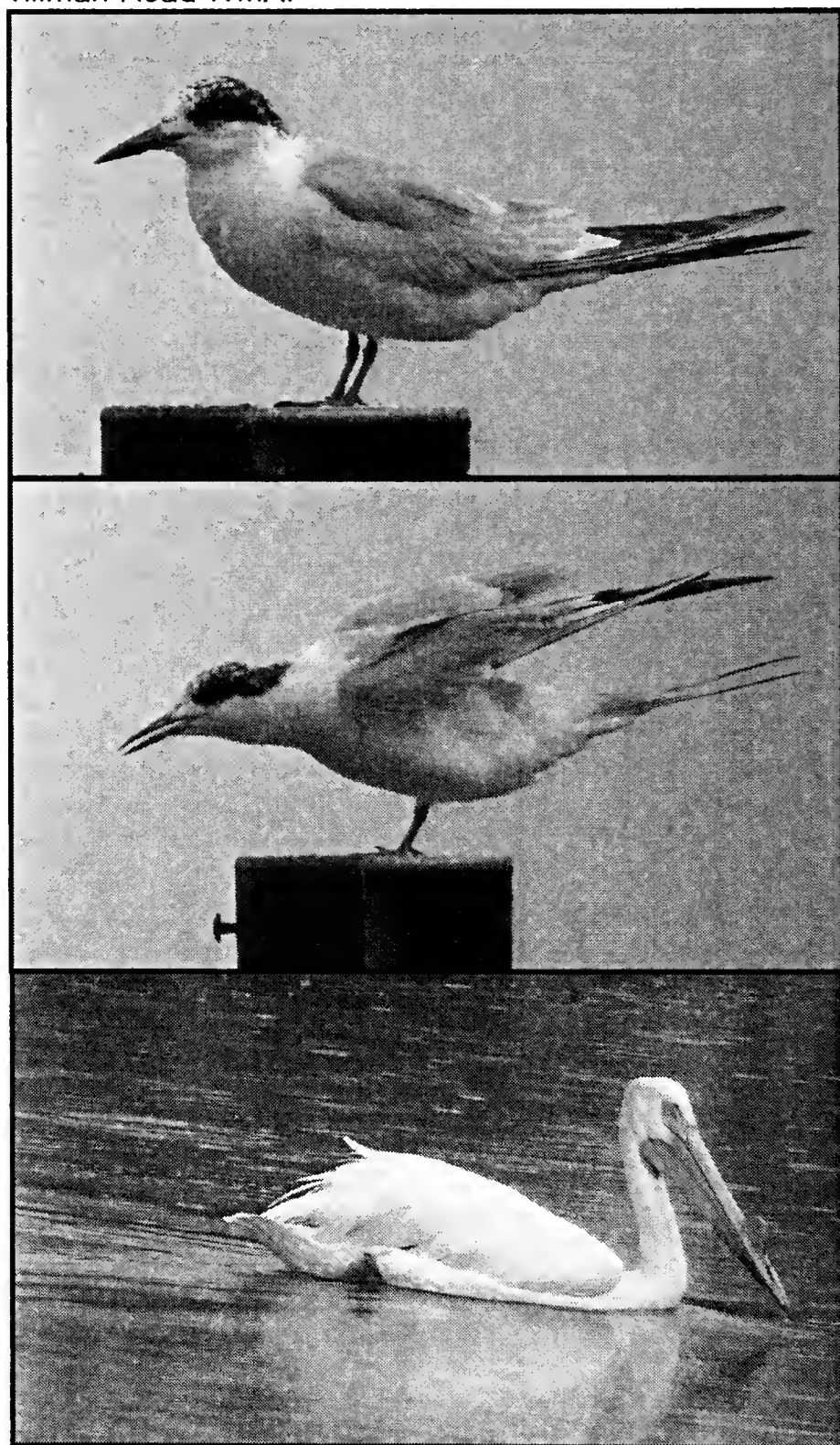
Peter Yoerg spotted a Prothonotary Warbler at Tonawanda WMA on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Jacobstein found one on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Oak Orchard WMA. Baird documented a single Yellow-throated Warbler at Allegany State Park seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, while D'Anna, et al. found two at that location on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is the ninth consecutive year that this typically southern species has been found nesting in Allegany State Park.

Most grassland sparrow species were only sparsely represented and again this June there was no report of Henslow's Sparrow, which has not been reported to BOS

since 2006. The only reported Clay-colored Sparrow was found by D'Anna on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lakeside Beach State Park, a location where Celeste Morien documented finding this species in May. Salembier reported seeing three Vesper Sparrows in the Town of Ashford on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

In contrast to the other grassland sparrow species this June and to the June records of previous years, this month there were several more reports of Grasshopper Sparrows than usual. Morien found one in Albion on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Beattie spotted two in Alexander on the 7<sup>th</sup>. At Tillman Road WMA Yoerg saw four on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Morien found two on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and Salembier spotted a total of six on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, D'Anna and Guthrie found two at Artpark State Park.

Orchard Orioles were well-reported. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tim Baird found two adults at a nest with youngsters at Allegany State Park. On the same day Holmes found two at Sinking Ponds Nature Preserve. Other individuals were seen by Berry in North Harmony, Betsy Potter and Willie D'Anna in Wilson and Newfane, and by Mike Morgante at Tillman Road WMA.



(Top and Middle) Forster's Tern photographed by Willie D'Anna at Olcott on June 9<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) American White Pelican photographed by Bill Watson at Tiff NP on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	3	18	Point Breeze	D'Anna
"	12	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk
"	17	2	Wilson Pier	Guthrie
Wood Duck	24	62	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Gadwall	4, 24	4, 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4; 11	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Lawrence
American Wigeon	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Guthrie
Mallard	4, 24	367, 357	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	4	6	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Northern Pintail	24	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	7	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	24	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	13	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Lawrence
Greater Scaup	6	1 m	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Scaup	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	3	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	3	3	Barker	D'Anna
"	22	7	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	4, 24	11, 6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruffed Grouse	9	1 + 6 yg	Watts Flats WMA	Lazarczyk
Red-throated Loon	1 - 3	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Zebehazy et al
Common Loon	3	8	Somerset	D'Anna
"	6	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	10	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
Pied-billed Grebe	30	35	Iroquois NWR	Morien
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	3	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al
D.-crested Cormorant	6	536 +188 n	Goat I.	Watson
"	16	1	Carroll	Berry
"	27	1200	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	3	1	Tifft NP	Morse
"	4	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	24	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Least Bittern	11; 14	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence; Genter
"	29	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Jacobstein
Great Blue Heron	26	78	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	8	29	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	11	14	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
"	22	33	Motor I.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	6	88	Goat I.	Watson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	20	1	Lewiston	D'Anna
Osprey	4	4 ad(1 on n)	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	9	1	Olcott	D'Anna
"	15	2 ad+1yg+n	Falconer	DeFrancisco
"	18	2 ad + n	Fort Erie	Kellem, R+L Goodridge
Bald Eagle	2	1 ad	Eden	Andrle
"	3	1 ad	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna
"	3	1 im	Somerset	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4; 5	1 +2 yg; 4	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	20	2	Falconer	DeFrancisco
Northern Harrier	12	1 ad	Over Tonawanda	Hess
"	30	2	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Morien, D'Anna
Merlin	2; 14	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	16	2	Chautauqua	Berry
Peregrine Falcon	6; 30	1 +3yg; 4 yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson; Hum
"	12; 15	1; 2	UB south campus	Yoerg
American Coot	4	20	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sandhill Crane	10	2 ad	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Roy
Black-bellied Plover	27	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Semipalmated Plover	4	10	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	4	4	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	13	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	13	2	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	<u>27</u>	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	7; 11	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Lawrence
"	27	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	30	16	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Lawrence
Upland Sandpiper	12; 23	3; 4	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg; Salembier
Semipalm. Sandpiper	2; 3	45; 57	Tonawanda WMA	Guthrie; Yoerg et al
"	4	15	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	13L	8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Least Sandpiper	10L	15	Oak Orchard WMA	Lawrence
"	27F	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	27F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
White-r. Sandpiper	4	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	2; 4	15; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Guthrie; Morien
"	13	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Wilson's Phalarope	3	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Little Gull	<u>17</u>	3	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Guthrie
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
Bonaparte's Gull	13	14	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	17	45	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	17	8	Wilson Pier	Guthrie
Herring Gull	9	30	Olcott	D'Anna
Great Bl.-backed Gull	1	5	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
"	6	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mitchell
Caspian Tern	9	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	9	32	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	17	24	Wilson Pier	Guthrie
Black Tern	11	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	16	Iroquois NWR	Hess
Common Tern	17	75	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	22	55	Goat I.	Watson
Forster's Tern	<u>9</u>	1	Olcott	D'Anna
E. Whip-poor-will	11	5	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1 - 30	2 + n	Hamburg	M Zebehazy
"	2	1	Fort Niagara SP	Ryan
"	5	2	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	9	1	Point Gratiot	Bowen
"	15	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
"	22	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Palmer
Acadian Flycatcher	2	1	Allegany SP	Miles
"	5; 14	1; 2	Chestnut Ridge CP	Zebehazy; Morien
"	10; 17	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence; Salembier
"	16	1	Carroll	Berry
"	27	2 ad + 1 yg	Holland	Salembier
"	30	3	South Hill SF	Lenz
Yellow-thr. Vireo	3	3	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	9	1	Alden	Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Purple Martin	7, 22	65, 339	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	9, 16	90, 80 + yg	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	64	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Bank Swallow	4	80	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10	6 + 59 n	Barre	Watson
Cliff Swallow	9	60 ad + 49 n	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Winter Wren	14	1	Carroll	Berry
"	16	1	Chestnut Ridge CP	Morgante
"	27	5	Holland	Salembier
* Sedge Wren	14	1	Knox Farm SP	Rosenburg
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	Allegany SP	Miles
"	24	2	Little Valley	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	South Hill SF	Lenz
Northern Mockingbird	9, 11	1, 1	Kiantone	Berry
"	10	1	Barre	Watson
La. Waterthrush	2	2 ad + 2 yg	Emery CP	Salembier
"	15	2	Attica	Morien, Beattie
"	24	1	Allegheny Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Holland	Salembier
Black-&-white Warbler	9	1	Carroll	Morgante
"	23	1	Allegany SP	D'Anna
"	24	1	Vandalia	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	6	Allegheny Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Prothonotary Warbler	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	29	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Jacobstein
Tennessee Warbler	<u>7L</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Mourning Warbler	4	1	Wilson	Potter
"	17	8	Carroll	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	2	Bucktooth SF	Baird
"	23	6	Allegany SP	Morien
"	27	4	Holland	Salembier
Cerulean Warbler	24	9	Allegheny Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Parula	1: 2, 9	4; 2, 1	Allegany SP	Morien; Baird
"	24	1	Allegheny Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Magnolia Warbler	6L	1	Wilson	Potter
"	27	3	Holland	Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	7L	1	Wilson	Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2L	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	9; 23	2; 1	Carroll	Morgante; D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	5L	1	Wilson	Potter
Pine Warbler	2	1	Emery CP	Salembier
"	2, 23	1, 1	Allegany SP	Morien
"	3	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	2, 9	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23	2	Allegany SP	D'Anna et al
Prairie Warbler	3; 23	1; 1	Allegany SP	Morien; D'Anna, Morien
"	5; 16	6; 16	Yorkshire	Mitchell; Salembier
"	9; 16	2; 1	Carroll	Morgante; Berry
"	15	1	North Harmony	Berry
Canada Warbler	2	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	16	1	Carroll	Berry
"	17	3	Bucktooth SF	Baird
"	27	5	Holland	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	2L	1	Allegany SP	Morien
Eastern Towhee	25, 26	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Clay-col. Sparrow	3	1	<u>Lakeside Beach SP</u>	D'Anna
Vesper Sparrow	16	3	Ashford	Salembier
Savannah Sparrow	15	30	Batavia	Morien
Grasshopper Sparrow	6	1	Albion	Morien
"	7	2	Alexander	Beattie
"	11;21;23	4, 2; 6	Tillman Road WMA	Yoerg; Morien; Salembier
"	17	2	Artpark SP	D'Anna, Guthrie
White-thr. Sparrow	17	1	Bush Hill SF	Mackie



<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Dark-eyed Junco	14	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Bobolink	7	30	Alexander	Beattie
"	25	20	Carlton Hill MUA	Dart, Beattie
Orchard Oriole	2	2	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	2	2ad+yg+n	Allegany SP	Baird
"	10, 16	1, 1	North Harmony	Berry
"	14 - 29	1 - 2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	21	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1 1 <sup>st</sup> -yr	Tillman Road WMA	Morgante
Purple Finch	16	8	Yorkshire	Salembier
Pine Siskin	9	30	Olcott	D'Anna
"	17; 20	30; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Guthrie; Potter
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:				267
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month:				1
<b>Total for the year 2012:</b>				<b><u>268</u></b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(TOP) Little Gulls (with Common Terns and Bonaparte's Gull) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Fort Niagara State Park on June 17<sup>th</sup>. (LEFT) Red-throated Loon photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Sinking Ponds Nature Preserve on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 78, No. 8 August 2012



### THE MONTH: July

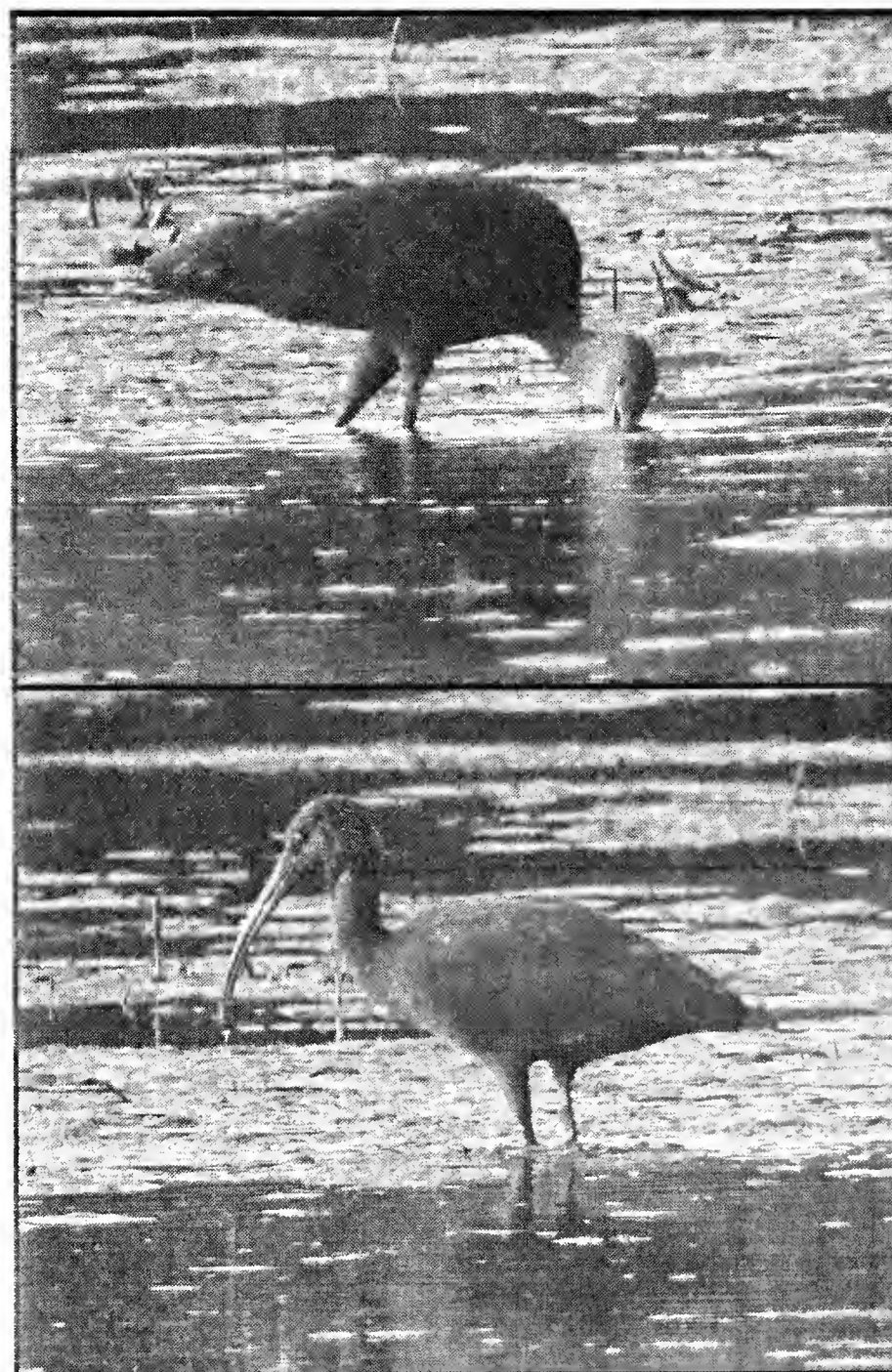
Elizabeth Wells

Warm, dry summer weather continued into July, weak cold fronts moved through our area on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, but provided little relief. This July was the third warmest in 142 years of records, with an average temperature of 75.5 °F, 4.4 degrees above normal. July 2011 was the fourth warmest on record, at 75.3. Six of the top 20 warmest Julys have now occurred in the new Millennium. Temperatures reached 80 or above for 28 days, with a 21-day stretch from June 28 to July 18, the fourth longest consecutive days on record. Five days were at or above 90, the average being two. The only new record was a high low temperature of 76 on July 17.

Rainfall was 2.36 inches below normal, at 0.87 inches (fourth driest). "Moderate drought conditions were experienced throughout the Niagara Frontier. Lake shadowing prevented some of the heavier rains [and associated] cold fronts from moving into the region." (Zaff/ Renolds) There were two exceptions to this dry weather pattern, heavy rain occurred over the southern tier on July 26-27 and a cold front brought heavy rain east of Buffalo on July 31. Wind speeds for the month were near normal, with a peak gust of 48 MPH on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Sunshine, at 68%, was just above normal. Lake Erie temperatures reached 77 by July 18, and stayed near or at previous record temperatures, but never reached 80 degrees as it did last year.

What may be the bird of the year, on July 17-18, a White-faced Ibis was observed at the Modern Landfill Inc. Wetland Construction Project pond on Porter Center Road in Lewiston, New York. Willie D'Anna made the initial discovery. The ibis was feeding, moving leisurely through the pond. This is the second confirmed sighting of a White-faced Ibis in the BOS Study Area. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* describes a White-faced Ibis collected on Grand Island, Niagara River in August 1844, 168 years ago! As of 1940, this specimen was still in the collection of the New York State Museum. Numerous verification reports noted the distinguishing

were duller than an adult's, with a dark head, and with no distinguishing markings or white supraloral lines on its face. White-faced Ibis have been occurring east of its breeding range with increased regularity in recent years.



White-faced Ibis photographed by Willie D'Anna at Lewiston on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |                                                                       |                                                                                  |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 77 | <b>The Month</b><br><i>Elizabeth Wells</i>                            | characteristics,<br>most notably the<br>red iris of the eyes.                    |
| 79 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b><br><i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> | Consensus was it<br>was a second-year<br>immature bird, as<br>its overall colors |
| 82 | <b>Calendar</b>                                                       |                                                                                  |



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell

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John Black

Ronald Hacker

Kayo Roy

2011-2013

Bernie Kester

Holly Sweeney

William Watson

2012-2014

Douglas Beattie

Karen Lee Lewis

David Suggs

There were several Little Blue Herons that made their way to our area this month. They are fairly rare in WNY and the Niagara peninsula, and average about 5 or more years between sightings. Other recent sightings of this species were at the SUNY at Buffalo North Campus (May, 2012), Dunkirk Harbor (May, 2008), Wilson (April 1996), and two records from Smithville, Ontario (July, 1994). On July 2, John G. Fedak, et al, was driving through the southern tier and chanced upon an adult Little Blue Heron hunting for food in a wooded wetland near Conewango Creek, east of Jamestown, in Poland, NY. On July 29, Doug Happ and Holly Sweeney documented an immature Little Blue Heron at Mosaic Ponds in Dunnville, Ontario during a BOS field trip. It displayed

white plumage with grayish bill, grayish-green legs and feet. Most noticeable were the black wingtips seen when it flew, differentiating itself from other white herons, egrets, and morphs. The final sighting for the month, on July 31, was of another immature Little Blue Heron, feeding in the Allegheny River in Olean, NY by Jeffrey Reed, et al. Reed also reported seeing one on August 5.

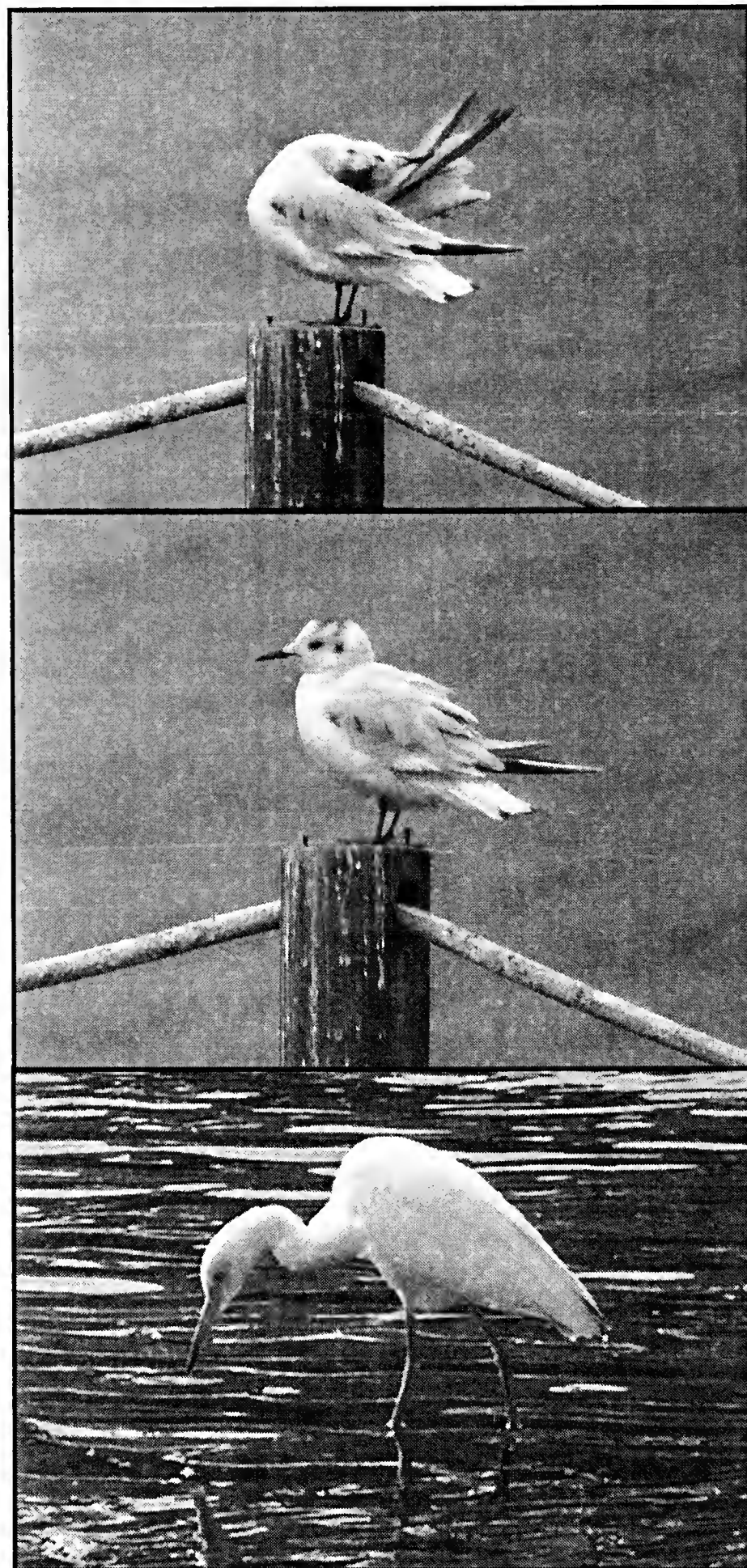
A Little Gull, in first cycle plumage, was found among "15-20 subadult Bonaparte's Gulls." (D'Anna) It was seen on the dock at the Coast Guard Station at Fort Niagara SP, in Youngstown NY. Notable differences between the two included, the Little Gull's smaller size, head, and bill and the very dark outer web and pale inner web on the outer primaries (see photographs). Immature Little Gulls have been sighted at this location several times in the past few years in June and July.

Joe Mitchell reported a non-breeding adult Forster's Tern on July 26 at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. It showed the distinctive black patch surrounding the eye. It was also light in color with a thicker, longer bill than the Common Tern's. July sightings of Forster's Terns have increased some over the last few years. There were four July sightings since 1999, the most recent, in 2008 in Wilson NY (D'Anna, et al.) Sightings jump significantly in August with migration.

*Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region.* Beardslee, Clark S., Mitchell, Harold D. 1965. Root Press Division, Artcraft Engraving Corp. Buffalo NY

Buffalo National Weather Service accessed from: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database: 1964-2012.



(Top and Middle) Little Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna at Fort Niagara State Park on July 7<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) hatch year Little Blue Heron photographed by Jeffrey Reed at Olean on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	3	3	Point Breeze	Wood
"	30	8	Lyndonville	Morien
Trumpeter Swan	2, 10	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Wood Duck	21	37	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	28	81	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Gadwall	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Wigeon	16	3	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Blue-winged Teal	26; 28	10; 15	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Guthrie
Green-winged Teal	1; 19; 28	6; 128; 150	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Morien; Wood
"	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Lenz
Common Goldeneye	26, 28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Common Merganser	10	20	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	13	11	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	28	4	Buffalo Harbor	Mitchell
Red-br. Merganser	26, 28	3, 4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Ruddy Duck	21; 26	14; 12	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Mitchell
Horned Grebe	10	1	Wainfleet(Ont)	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	1 - 7	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	10	381+93 n	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	12	634	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	19	98	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Bittern	2	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wood
"	19; 28	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Guthrie
Great Blue Heron	1; 19	83; 99	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Morien
Great Egret	8 - 31	1 - 4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	9	86	Motor I.	Watson
"	18	12	Lewiston	Humann
"	21	56	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
<u>Little Blue Heron</u>	2	1	Poland	Fedak et al
"	29	1	Haldimand (Ont)	Happ, Sweeney, Kester
"	31	1	Olean	Reed, Lazarczyk, Watson
Green Heron	19	13	Basom	Morien
"	19	10	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	22	19	Tift NP	Humann
Black-cr. Night-Heron	11	16	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Morien
* <u>White-faced Ibis</u>	17, 18	1	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	17	1	Lewiston	Mitchell, Lazarczyk et al
"	18	1	Lewiston	Roy, Watson et al
Osprey	1 - 7	4 ad + 4 n	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8	2	Poland	Berry
"	11	5 +8 yg+3 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	21	2 +4 yg+2 n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	22	2	Medina	Morien
Broad-winged Hawk	5; 8	1; 3	Allegany SP	Hess; Yoerg, Henderson
American Kestrel	31	8	Tillman Road WMA	Morgante
Merlin	2	1	Allegany SP	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	1 m	N. Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	UB south campus	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	3	N. Buffalo	Yoerg
"	13	1	Grand I. south bridge	Watson
Virginia Rail	30	1	Conewango WMA	Berry
Sora	17	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	25	1	Beaver Meadow Aud.	Kerr
American Coot	27	50	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Black-bellied Plover	10; 22	2; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; D'Anna et al
Semipalmated Plover	14	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Spotted Sandpiper	21	49	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	7F; 8	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wood; D'Anna, Mitchell
"	11	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	16;17,18	2; 3	Lewiston	Watson; D'Anna
Greater Yellowlegs	7	2	Batavia WWTP	Wood
"	7; 26	5; 14	Iroquois NWR	Wood; Morien
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	4	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	7	2	Batavia WWTP	Wood et al
"	27	90	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Whimbrel	27	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Ruddy Turnstone	10	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	26	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	26	1	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
Sanderling	22F	20	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	26; 28	1; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz; Goetz, Lenz
Semipalm. Sandpiper	10F	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	16	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	17, 18	1, 3	Lewiston	D'Anna
Least Sandpiper	7F	16	Batavia WWTP	Lenz
"	8	35	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
"	9	6	Kiantone	Berry
"	10	58	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
* Baird's Sandpiper	22F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	30	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	10F; 22	1; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; D'Anna et al
"	17	3	Kiantone	Berry
"	27	8	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
* Stilt Sandpiper	17F; 18	2; 1	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	28	3	Iroquois NWR	Wood et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	10F	4	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson
"	14	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	17, 18	2	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Phalarope sp.	29	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Sweeney et al
Bonaparte's Gull	24	8	UB north campus	Hollister
"	26	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	29	8	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Little Gull	<u>7</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	19	26	Point Breeze	Carlson
"	27; 28	10; 16	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Guthrie
"	31	1	South Dayton	Lazarczyk, Watson
Black Tern	7; 11	28; 19	Tonawanda WMA	Wood; Watson
"	25	28	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Common Tern	9	65	Squaw I.	Gordon
"	10	550	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson
"	10	80	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	27	80	Wilson Pier	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	<u>26</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell, Callaghan
Red-headed Wdpkr.	8; 25	1; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna ; Morien
"	10	1	Lake Erie SP	Stuckey

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9; 16	2; 1 ad+1 imm	Squaw I.	Gordon; Watson
"	28	5	Point Gratiot	Lenz
"	30	1 ad	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	1 – 7; 8	5; 1	Allegany SP	Hess; Yoerg, Henderson
"	6-8	3	Middlebury	Beattie
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	22	1	Yorkshire	Beattie
"	29	1	North Harmony	Berry
Purple Martin	3	100	Iroquois NWR	Baker
"	8, 14	20	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	21	18	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	31	70	Medina	Morien
Tree Swallow	27	300	Basom	Morien
Bank Swallow	1, 30	11, 18	Kiantone	Berry
"	10	80	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson
"	21	880	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Cliff Swallow	13	6	Wheatfield	Watson
"	15	15	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	17	2	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
Winter Wren	1 – 7; 8	2; 1	Allegany SP	Hess; Yoerg, Henderson
"	1, 9, 24	2, 3, 1	Ward	Brooks
"	6	2	Middlebury	Beattie
Sedge Wren	1; 17	1	Conewango WMA	Lenz; Baird, Morton
Marsh Wren	17	4	North Harmony	Berry
"	21	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	6	Conewango WMA	Berry
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	24	1	Tift NP	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	1 – 7; 8	2; 1	Allegany SP	Hess; Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Mockingbird	9	1	Squaw I.	Gordon
"	16; 24	1; 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	1	Marilla	Holmes
La. Waterthrush	1 – 7; 8	3; 1	Allegany SP	Hess; Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	2	Middlebury	Beattie
Northern Parula	1 – 7; 2	1; 2	Allegany SP	Hess; Berry
Pine Warbler	2; 6; 8	1; 1; 1	Allegany SP	Berry; Hess; Yoerg et al
"	22	1	Yorkshire	Beattie
Yellow-thr. Warbler	2; 8	1; 3	Allegany SP	Berry; Yoerg, Henderson
Prairie Warbler	1	7	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	2	Andover	Brooks
"	8	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8, 10, 24	2, 2, 3	Alfred	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	9	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Canada Warbler	15	3	Canadaway Creek	Yoerg
"	29	1	Watts Flats WMA	Leenders
Yellow-breasted Chat	17	1	West Valley	Hollister
Clay-col. Sparrow	15	1 PV	Portland	Yoerg, Henderson
Vesper Sparrow	1; 17	4; 1	Ashford	Yoerg; Hollister
"	8	1	Barre	Potter, D'Anna
Grasshopper Sparrow	3, 6	2, 1	Carlton Hill MUA	Beattie
"	5	3	Alexander	Beattie
Bobolink	7	60	Jamestown Airport	Lenz
"	7	30	John White WMA	Wood et al
Orchard Oriole	1	1	Conewango WMA	Lenz
"	2	3	Medina	Jacobstein
"	2, 12-14	1, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	7	1	John White WMA	Wood
"	25	1	Allegany SP	Georgic
* Red Crossbill	24, 29	2, 3	Ward	Brooks
Pine Siskin	5	1	N. Java	Junkin
"	8, 12, 28	4, 7, 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 268

Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month: 4

**Total for the year 2012: 272**





[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## October - December Calendar & Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Oct. 10: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, will present "Gull Watching at Niagara and in Ontario." This presentation will help you appreciate and understand the 21 species of gulls found in our region with tips on identification, plumages and aging.

**Oct. 14: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** Compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Oct. 27: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

**Nov. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Holly Sweeny, our BOS April Count Compiler, will discuss the results of the April Count. Buffalo Ornithological May Count Compiler, Dr. Robert DeLeon, will discuss the results of the May Count.

**Nov. 18: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association,** for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569/[tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)).

**Dec.12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have the election of officers for 2013.

**Dec. 16: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society CBC.** Compiler - David Gordon, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com), 716-390-1429.

**Dec. 16: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler – Marcie Jacklin, [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca), 905-871-2577.

**Dec. 27: Thursday. Niagara Falls (ON/NY) CBC.** Compiler – (Ontario) Kayo Roy, [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com), 905-892-4433, (New York State) Willie D'Anna, [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com), 716-751-3637.

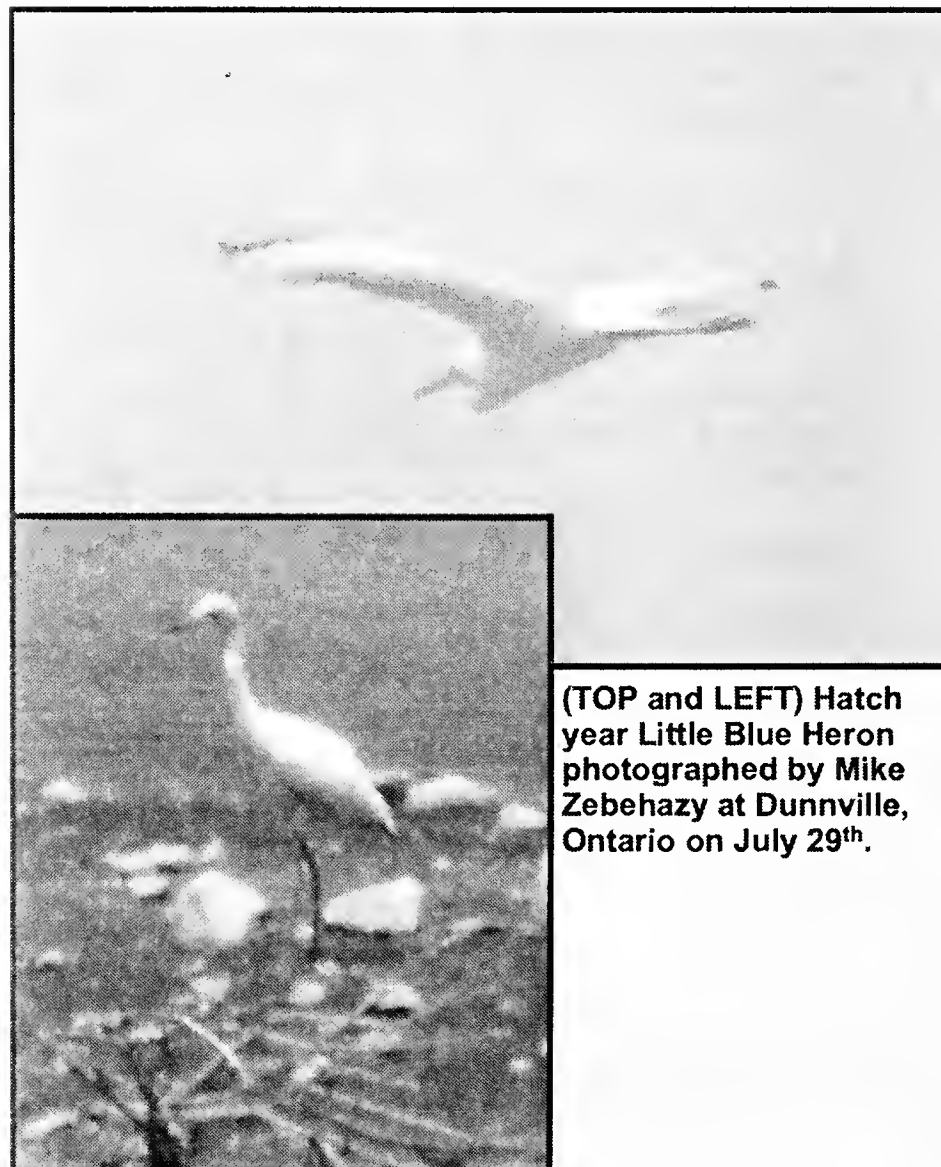
**Dec. 28: Friday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

**Dec. 29: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC.** Compiler Tom O'Donnell, [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569.

**Dec. 30: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler – Drew Campbell, [drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 586-441-8796. Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne.

**Jan. 9: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** TBA

**Feb. 13: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."



(TOP and LEFT) Hatch year Little Blue Heron photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Dunnville, Ontario on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Volume 78, No. 9 September 2012

### THE MONTH: August

*James Pawlicki*

After a hot, sunny, and dry July, August continued the trend with consistent heat and below average rainfall blanketing the WNY region. Temperatures warmed into the 80's on 17 of the month's 31 days with 3 days recording daily record highs into the 90's. The month's average temperature at the Buffalo-Niagara Falls International Airport came out to 71.1 °F, 2.1° above average. Rainfall was almost non-existent during the month as D1 (Moderate Drought) conditions continued across most regional locations. The month's total rainfall measured out at only 1.24 inches, 2.02 inches below normal, much of which fell on the 5<sup>th</sup> as a cold front pushed through the region.

The fall shorebird migration peaked during the month with a total of 22 species recorded, highlighted by widespread Red-necked Phalaropes that included a record early sighting along the Lake Erie shore at Port Colborne (Ontario) by Roy et al on the 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition to sightings of White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers, other notable observations included Whimbrels at Buffalo Harbor and Tift Nature Preserve, as well as the month's only report of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper by Watson at Wainfleet Sod Farm (Ontario) on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

While scanning over Buffalo Harbor from Erie Basin Marina on the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup>, I was stunned to watch a juvenile Brown Pelican fly in and land among hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants on the gravelly spit at Donnelly's Breakwall. This makes the 5<sup>th</sup> record of Brown Pelican for the BOS study area with prior records 25 September 1971 at Waverly Beach, Lake Erie (Ontario); 9-10 July 1992 at LaSalle Park (Buffalo Harbor); 7 July 2009 at Dunkirk Harbor; and a specimen, probably the same individual at Dunkirk Harbor earlier in the month,

Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, and Long Point along Lake Erie in Ontario. It was suspected, but never confirmed that the Ontario sightings pertained to one wandering individual that may have been the one present at Buffalo Harbor. In line with the Ontario sightings, the individual at Buffalo Harbor was a present for only a day, despite observers diligently searching in the days following the observation.

Coinciding with the month's dry conditions, impressive counts of local post-breeding herons and ducks were reported from the Oak Orchard swamps. Counts of 335 Great Blue Herons and 340 roosting Great Egrets were made by Morien at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, and monthly maximums of 200 Wood Ducks, 200 Green-winged Teal, and 65 Blue-winged Teal were noted at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. What has perhaps become the area's now resident pair of Trumpeter Swans was observed by Wasilco at the Oak Orchard WMA on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Other high counts included 24 Green Herons and 30 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Tift Nature Preserve, while continuing over from July, the Little Blue Heron present in Olean was documented on the 1<sup>st</sup> by Mitchell.

- |    |                                                     |                                                                                       |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 83 | <b>The Month</b>                                    | picked up at Wide Beach, Lake Erie on 14 July 2009. In the week                       |
|    | <i>James Pawlicki</i>                               |                                                                                       |
| 85 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>                           | preceding the sighting, single Brown Pelicans                                         |
|    | <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i>            | were also reported from Atwood Lake in northeastern Ohio, and at Point Pelee National |
| 90 | <b>Verification Date Guide</b>                      |                                                                                       |
|    | <i>James Pawlicki</i>                               |                                                                                       |
| 92 | <b>Fort Drum Red-headed Woodpecker Study - 2012</b> |                                                                                       |
|    | <i>Jacob Berl &amp; John Edwards</i>                |                                                                                       |
| 94 | <b>Calendar</b>                                     |                                                                                       |



Brown Pelican (center) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Erie Basin Marina on August 27<sup>th</sup>.



The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

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2011-2013	Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney William Watson
2012-2014	Douglas Beattie Karen Lee Lewis David Suggs

At least 23 species of warblers were noted from several widely scattered locations during the latter half of the month as many species of songbirds began their migration south. Notable first arrivals were Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers at Rock Point Provincial Park (Ontario) on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Wilson's and Bay-breasted Warblers at Amherst State Park on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, respectively, and an early Palm Warbler at Goat Island on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Non-warbler highlights included a Gray-cheeked Thrush found by Sherony and Carlson at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 28<sup>th</sup>, an early migrant Swainson's Thrush in Wilson on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and single Olive-sided Flycatchers at Beaver Island and Amherst State Parks on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

Other highlights from the month included a

Franklin's Gull in Wilson on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a high count of 12 Red-headed Woodpeckers in Fort Erie (Ontario) on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and 4 Red Crossbills in the town of Ward on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Also for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month, Lewiston's Black Vultures were observed again as 3 birds were noted soaring above the Lewiston Docks among Turkey Vultures on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



Lesser Black-backed Gull photographed by Bill Watson at Goat Island on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Literature cited:

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2011

Thomas, D., Reynolds A. Monthly Weather Summary for August 2012. Buffalo National Weather Service: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

Birdingonthe.net mailing list archives found at: <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/holzmanarchives.html>



Northern Flicker photographed by Betsy Brooks at Alfred on August 20<sup>th</sup>. This bird shows an unusual combination of red AND yellow coloration in the primaries and rectrices suggestive of both red-shafted AND yellow-shafted forms of this species. This phenomenon could be ascribed to an intergrade between the forms or, more likely, the result of diet.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

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\* = First record for the year.

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(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

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<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Trumpeter Swan	31	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Wood Duck	23; 31	160; 200	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Wasilco
Gadwall	10; 20	17; 17	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
American Wigeon	19, 20	1, 2	Batavia WWTP	Morien et al
"	27	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Blue-winged Teal	17	40	Gratwick Park	Sly
"	31	65	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Northern Shoveler	20; 29	11; 8	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Lazarczyk
"	22	5	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Northern Pintail	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien
Green-winged Teal	3, 23	100, 123	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	31	200	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Redhead	10	2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Mitchell, Young
Ring-necked Duck	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Scoter species	28	1	Fort Niagara SP	Morien et al
Long-tailed Duck	8	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	BonEnfant
"	12; 17	2; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna; Watson
Bufflehead	25	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Ruddy Duck	19; 24	20; 12	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Beattie
"	22	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	3	36	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* <u>Brown Pelican</u>	27	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
D.-crested Cormorant	2	633	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	17	1500	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	2	2	Jamestown Audubon	Allen
"	7; 20	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Richbart; Callaghan
Least Bittern	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Scheibel
Great Blue Heron	2	190	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	3	335	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Great Egret	22, 23	264, 340	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	2	Allegheny Reservoir	D'Anna
<u>Little Blue Heron</u>	1	1	Olean	Mitchell
Green Heron	26; 28	20; 24	Tifft NP	Salembier; Humann
Black-cr. Night-Heron	26; 28	24; 30	Tifft NP	Salembier; Humann
<u>Black Vulture</u>	28	3	Lewiston	Morien, Pawlicki et al
Osprey	10	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	13	1	Wellsville	Brooks
"	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	21	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	27	2 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	R&L Goodridge
Bald Eagle	6; 7	1; 2 imm	Iroquois NWR	Holmes; Watson
"	18; 19	1 juv	Port Colborne (Ont)	Borg; R&L Goodridge
"	22	1 ad+2 imm	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Merlin	8, 20	1, 1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	14	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23	1	Chautauqua Lake	Leenders

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Peregrine Falcon	6; 24	1; 1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell; Pawlicki
"	11	1	Albion	Morien
"	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al
"	22; 28	1; 1 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann; Yoerg
"	22, 30	1, 3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Beattie
"	31	1 juv	Bethany	Beattie
"	31	1	South Grand I. bridge	Humann
Common Gallinule	8, 30	30, 34	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Coot	3	70	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sandhill Crane	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Black-bellied Plover	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
"	17	65	Dunnville Sod Farm (Ont)	Watson
"	26; 28	1; 6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann; Yoerg
* Amer. Golden-Plover	17F	1	Dunnville Sod Farm (Ont)	Watson
"	24; 26	1; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; Humann
Semipalmated Plover	11	20	Albion	Morien
"	28	48	Tifft NP	Humann
Killdeer	17	372	Dunnville Sod Farm (Ont)	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	9	4	Albion	Mitchell
"	31	4	Kiantone	Berry
Greater Yellowlegs	30	15	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	44	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Upland Sandpiper	17	1	NE Buffalo (flyover)	Yoerg
Whimbrel	21, 22	2, 1	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Mitchell, Pawlicki et al
"	28	2	Tifft NP	Humann, Fell
Ruddy Turnstone	5	1	Woodlawn	Fell
"	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Beattie
"	10;18	3; 1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Mitchell; Lazarczyk et al
"	19	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	21 – 31	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24, 28	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Beattie
Sanderling	6, 28	5, 7	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	17	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	19	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	28	4	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
Semipalm. Sandpiper	28	60	Tifft NP	Carlson, Sherony
Least Sandpiper	14	50	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	28	63	Tifft NP	Humann
"	29	43	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Beattie
White-r. Sandpiper	6F, 15	1, 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	14	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Baird's Sandpiper	6	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	9	1	Albion	Mitchell
"	9; 10	1; 1	Knowlesville	Morien; Beattie
"	20; 28	3; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morien et al; Mitchell
"	23	1	Tifft NP	Callaghan
"	25	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
Pectoral Sandpiper	14; 16	15; 12	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Callaghan
Stilt Sandpiper	5	2	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	15	3	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Young
"	29; 30	1	Tifft NP	Humann; Salembier
"	30, 31	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Waslico
* Buff-br. Sandpiper	17F	1	Wainfleet Sod Farm (Ont)	Watson
Short-b. Dowitcher	3; 6; 17	2; 1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Holmes; Beattie
"	20; 24	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann; Yoerg
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Wilson's Snipe	30	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Wilson's Phalarope	31	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien, Wasilco
* Red-neck. Phalarope	11F-17	1 juv	Port Colborne (Ont)	Roy et al; Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18;19;21	3; 2; 2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Mitchell; Morien; Pawlicki
"	20; 21	3; 4	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie et al
"	31	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Bonaparte's Gull	20; 21	1; 1 juv	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Watson
* Franklin's Gull	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Herring Gull	19	300	Canadaway Creek	Lenz
"	19	250	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2; 28	1; 2	Goat I.	Watson; Pawlicki et al
Caspian Tern	3	21	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	45	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Black Tern	3, 8	10, 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann
Black-billed Cuckoo	29	1	Ashville	Leenders
Common Nighthawk	4F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	9, 21	1, 1	Clarence	Morgante
"	16	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20, 25	20, 1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	22	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	24	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon, Pawlicki
"	31	2	Jamestown	Leenders
Red-headed Wdpr.	2	3	Point Gratiot	Allen
"	18	1 juv	Fort Erie (Ont) (f)	Jacklin
"	19,24,25	5, 12, 6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Humann, Yoerg
N. Flicker	20	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
Olive-s. Flycatcher	25F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	23F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Kingbird	12	16	Knox Farm SP	Brenner
"	21, 22	6, 6	Clarence	Morgante
Philadelphia Vireo	21F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Purple Martin	14	60	Grand I. (west)	Lazarczyk
"	26	100	Clarence	Morgante
"	31	1109	Grand I.	Humann
Tree Swallow	19	900	Batavia	Morien, Callaghan
"	20; 24	650; 200	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	20	30	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bank Swallow	19	100	Oakfield	Morien
"	20	220	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Barn Swallow	20	80	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Veery	18	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	20	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	5	Tonawanda (flyover)	Hess
Gray-cheeked Thrush	28	1	Tifft NP	Sherony, Carlson
Swainson's Thrush	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Tonawanda (flyover)	Hess
"	28	3	Tifft NP	Sherony, Carlson
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	6	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	10	1	Barre	Beattie
Ovenbird	26F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	1	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell
"	29	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Northern Waterthrush	29F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	29F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Blue-winged Warbler	7	1	Aurora	Holmes
Black-&-white Warb.	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	28	1	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Humann, Fell
Tennessee Warbler	18F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	2	Goat I.	Callaghan, Morien
Nashville Warbler	18F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier



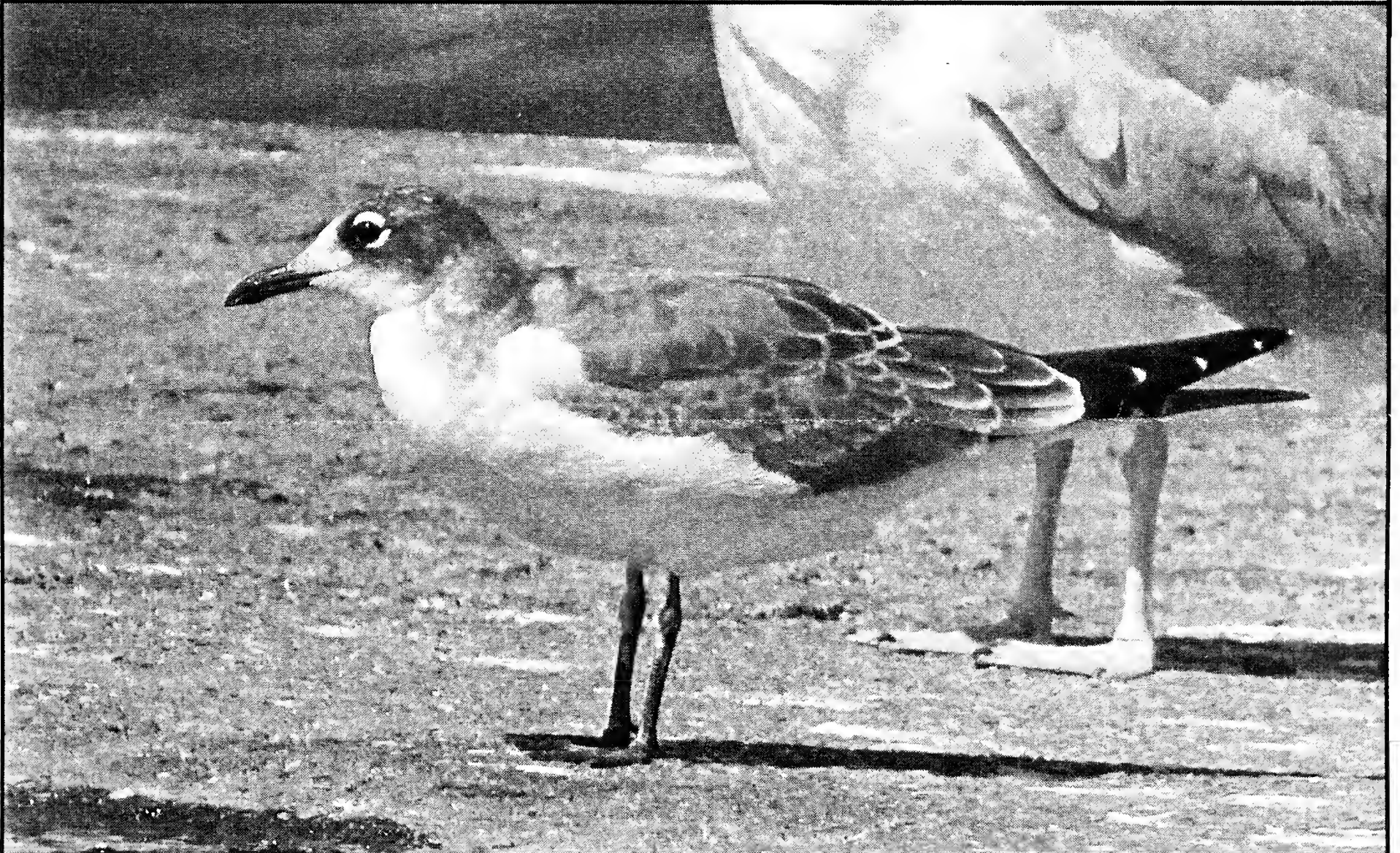
<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	1	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
"	28	3	Niagara Falls	Morien et al
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Mouming Warbler	11F, 14	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	25	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	27, 28	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
Hooded Warbler	22F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
American Redstart	21	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	3	Niagara Falls	Morien
Cape May Warbler	17F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	22	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	3	Niagara Falls	Morien
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	4	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	29	2	Tifft NP	Humann
Northern Parula	1	1	Allegany SP	Georgic
"	28F	1	Goat I.	Morien
Magnolia Warbler	17	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	18; 19	2; 2	Amherst SP	Salembier; Morien
Bay-breasted Warbler	18F	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Blackburnian Warbler	18F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	18F, 22	1, 3	Amherst SP	Salembier
Chestnut-s. Warbler	17F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	2	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
Blackpoll Warbler	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	22	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Wilson	Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	28F	1	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
"	28F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Palm Warbler	28F	1	Niagara Falls	Morien, Pawlicki
"	28F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Pine Warbler	17	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	18	1	Palmer's Pond SF	Lenz
Yellow-r. Warbler	11F, 17	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	17	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	25	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	28	2	Niagara Falls	Morien et al
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	28F	2	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	3	3	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	17F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24, 28	1, 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	1	Goat I.	Potter, Morien
Wilson's Warbler	17F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	2	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Niagara Falls	Morien
White-thr. Sparrow	6	1	Ward	Brooks
Scarlet Tanager	20F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Bobolink	16	30	Alexander	Dart
"	20	18	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
Red-w. Blackbird	31	2000	Poland	Berry
Red Crossbill	6	4	Ward	Brooks
Pine Siskin	1	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 272

Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month: 5

**Total for the year 2012:** 277

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy



(Top) Black Vultures photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Lewiston on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Expansion of one bird shown in lower right inset. (Bottom) Juvenile Franklin's Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna at the pier at the end of Rt.425 in the village of Wilson on August 17<sup>th</sup>.



# Summary of Changes in 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Verification Date Guide (2012)

James Pawlicki

## Organizational Changes and Supplements

### Presentation

To enhance the overall use and presentation of the guide, a small number of changes were made to the format. When listing subspecies, the common name is now given before the proper scientific name. This allows the guide to be more user-friendly as it is can often be easier to relate the common name of a subspecies to what is illustrated in field guides, especially those that do not solely use scientific names for subspecies populations (e.g. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2000).

For species that have limiting dates with exceptions, the standard date range is given in the far right column, and the exception correlating with the date range is now given in small print italics below the species name. For species that have standard region-wide dates and dates correlating with an exception, or more than two sets of limiting dates, both with exceptions, the same is format applied where the second exception and correlating set of dates are given in small print italics following the first set.

### AOU Taxonomic Changes

Since the publication of the 8th edition of the *Verification Date Guide* in 2006, five supplements describing taxonomic changes to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998) have been published. Of the recent changes made in the AOU checklist, the most noteworthy changes reflected within the 9th edition of *Verification Date Guide* are listed below:

- Whip-poor-will is now split from its former Mexican subspecies, of which the widespread North American form will be known as Eastern Whip-poor-will.
- Common Moorhen is now split from its former Eurasian subspecies, of which the North American form will be known as Common Gallinule.
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is now known as Nelson's Sparrow
- Numerous taxonomic changes in arrangement have been made within the Wood-Warbler complex.
- Falcons are removed from their former taxonomic order between Hawks and Rails, and are now placed between Woodpeckers and Parrots.

### Special Status Species

Notes detailing the special status of non-native species such as Chukar, Gray Partridge, Monk Parakeet, and Eurasian Goldfinch, which do not have established populations within the study area, are now included in the *How to Use this Guide* section. Similar notes with additional information on the special status of Northern Bobwhite in the study area, and the critically endangered status of Eskimo Curlew in North America are also included. Additionally, two extinct species, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet, both of which have

historical records of occurrence within the study area, are now included in the official list for consistency.

## New Species and Breeders

Since the publication of the eight edition of the *Verification Date Guide* in 2006, five species have been added to the official list of birds to have occurred in the BOS study area: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (August 2010, 2011), Eurasian Collared-Dove (January, February 2011), Fish Crow (January, February 2012), Say's Phoebe (October 2008), and Kirtland's Warbler (May 2010). One species, Sandhill Crane, was added to the list of documented breeding species within the study area based on evidence obtained from the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

## Revision of Dates

For species with limiting dates, the new dates chosen were often the latest/earliest or near latest/earliest documented records for the species within the BOS database or Beardslee and Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region – an Annotated Checklist* (1965) and its supplement (1970). As a general rule, dates that were chosen are within 15 days of the next latest/earliest records, thus any records of occurrence over 15 days from the next latest/earliest record were not used as a limiting date. For species with multiple accumulated records extending well outside what is considered to be the normal period of occurrence, records with the largest gap between it and the next latest/earliest record were used as limiting dates. Using the above method as a general guideline, many limiting dates were expanded anywhere from two days to two weeks, although on rare occasions, an evaluation of a species status and records of occurrence supported a contraction of dates, most within the range of one to three days.

## Species with Revised Verification Status

### Date Expansions and Removal of Restrictions

Due to recent increases in population or range expansions into the study area, the following species that formerly required region-wide verification at any time of year were given an "All Year" status, or new sets of limiting dates, some with geographical restrictions:

- Trumpeter Swan: no longer requires region-wide verification at any time of year (Note: verification still requested for potential breeding evidence)
- Black Vulture: no longer requires region-wide verification from March 1-May 9 (Note: the statisticians have indicated that verification is not required at any time of year for observations along the lower Niagara River until further notice)
- American Avocet: no longer requires region-wide verification from July 8-November 12.
- Long-billed Dowitcher: no longer requires region-wide verification from October 1-November 26.
- Golden Eagle: no longer requires region-wide verification from March 7-May 8, and Dec 26-March 6 at Allegany State Park and vicinity only.
- Yellow-throated Warbler: no longer requires region-wide verification from April 14-May 22 and from May 23-August 1 at Allegany State Park only



- Kentucky Warbler: no longer requires region-wide verification from April 30-May 27
- Nelson's Sparrow: no longer requires region-wide verification from September 27-November 1

Sets of limiting dates, some with geographical restrictions and at times supplementing existing sets of dates were added or revised for the following species:

- Eared Grebe: no longer requires region-wide verification from October 29-January 4, supplementing dates from July 4-October 28 at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant only.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: no longer requires verification from May 31-September 24 in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties only, supplementing region-wide dates from September 25-May 30.
- Connecticut Warbler: no longer requires region-wide verification from May 14-June 3, supplementing region-wide dates from August 25-October 12.
- Prothonotary Warbler: no longer requires region-wide verification from April 26-May 25 and now from May 26-August 22 at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and Oak Orchard and Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas only.
- Clay-colored Sparrow: no longer requires region-wide verification from April 29-May 31 and from June 1-August 7 in Chautauqua, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Wyoming Counties only

The following species with former sets of limiting dates are now given region-wide "All Year" status: Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Long-tailed Duck, and Pine Siskin. Little Gull is now given an "All Year" status only when observed on the Great Lakes and Niagara River.

Bufflehead and Ring-necked Duck now have region-wide "All Year" status, while Greater Scaup will no longer require verification when observed in summer at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Niagara River, or the Great Lakes.

Prairie Warbler and White-throated Sparrow formerly required verification during the summer when observed away from the southern tier in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Wyoming counties, and will no longer require verification away from these areas. Additionally, Common Raven will no longer require verification at any time of year when observed away from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Wyoming Counties.

### **Date Contractions and Addition of Restrictions**

Due to a sharp decline as a breeding species within the BOS study area, any sightings of Henslow's Sparrow will now require verification. Since 2006 there have been no documented records of Henslow's Sparrow within the study area, while the species has also experienced a steady decline as a breeder within New York State and neighboring states and provinces. This change in verification status was also influenced by the species secretive nature, its similarity to other sparrow species, and the ambiguity of its short, insect-like song.

In combination with Long-billed Dowitcher no longer requiring verification from October 1-November 26, it was also decided to retract the late fall limiting date of Short-

billed Dowitcher from October 8 to September 9. This was done in order to introduce a period from September 10-September 30 where *Dowitcher* species will be the only accepted identification, unless verifying details and/or photographic evidence is provided that sufficiently supports species identification. With recent advances in dowitcher identification over the last decade, there has been an increase in fall sightings of Long-billed Dowitchers within the study area from the period of August to November. Since the former late fall date for Short-billed Dowitcher was October 8, the above changes were instituted so that a better understanding might be obtained on the general departure and arrival timing of the two dowitcher species during September.

Given the rarity of the species as a breeder within the study area away from Wainfleet Bog, Ontario, Eastern Whip-poor-will will now require verification if detected away from this area from June 2-September 10. These limiting dates supplement region-wide spring dates from April 18-June 1 when the species does not require region-wide verification when detected at this time.

Northern Goshawk will now require verification for any region-wide observations of juveniles from September 1-May 14, while any plumage observed in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Wyoming Counties will not require verification from May 15-August 31 where the species is a rare, but regular breeder. This change was made due to the difficulty in distinguishing juveniles of this species from juvenile Cooper's Hawk, especially away from the southern tier counties during the non-breeding season. Therefore any observation of a juvenile Northern Goshawk will require verification if observed away from the breeding grounds in the southern tier.

Considering the very few or lack of records in the study area away from the Niagara River and/or the Great Lakes, any observations of the following species will now require verification if observed away from these areas: King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake. Additionally, observations of adult or adult-like plumages of Black-legged Kittiwake will no longer require verification.

### **Purpose of the Guide**

On behalf of the verification date guide committee, I hope that members and friends of the Buffalo Ornithological Society will greatly enjoy using this 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Verification Date Guide*. During the years that the society's verification system has been instituted, the purpose of the verification date guide has been to act as an evolving reference in determining when and if a sighting, based on recent and historical records of occurrence, is significant enough to warrant verification for inclusion into the society's database. These new adjustments of dates and changes in verification status will greatly reduce the potential number of reports required throughout the year, but in effect will also increase the significance of each and every verifying report when called for. Therefore, when a verifying report is required, the record will be of such importance that the observer may feel pride in it, and should be prepared with the care accorded to a document of significant historical and scientific value.

# Notes on a Breeding Population of Red-headed Woodpeckers in New York State

Jacob L. Berl and John W. Edwards

Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26505

The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is a widely distributed yet declining species, occurring across much of the eastern United States (Smith et al. 2000). Throughout their range, Red-headed Woodpeckers are typically found in relatively open habitats, such as agricultural woodlots, pine plantations, or oak savanna. Although widely distributed, this species has seen sharp population declines across much of its range over the past 40 years (Sauer et al. 2011). Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data reports an annual range-wide population decline of nearly 3%, invoking its listing as a “Watch List Species” by the National Audubon Society and Partners in Flight (Rich et al. 2004).

In New York State, declines of 8.8% annually have been reported, constituting the greatest rate of decline for any state within the range of Red-headed Woodpeckers (Sauer et al. 2011). This decline is corroborated by New York State Breeding Bird Atlas data, which recorded Red-headed Woodpeckers in over 70% fewer survey blocks during the to 2000–05 survey compared to 1980–85 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). This drastic decline resulted in the Red-headed Woodpecker being listed as a New York State “Species of Greatest Conservation Need”.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are sparsely distributed in the northeastern United States (Spiering 2009), and are typically found in small numbers (1 or 2 pairs) in beaver ponds, oak savanna, or other habitats characterized by abundant snags and open understory. A small population of at least 9–11 adult pairs regularly breeds on Fort Drum Military Installation, in northern New York State. This small population likely represents one of the largest breeding populations in the Northeast, and occurs at the northern limit of the Red-headed Woodpecker’s distribution. The Fort Drum population represents an important study system as further population declines in the Northeastern portion of its range will likely lead to conservation actions designed to manage habitat for this rapidly declining species. Beginning in early May 2012, a field study was initiated with objectives to quantitatively assess the breeding ecology and habitat selection of the Fort Drum Red-headed Woodpecker population.

## Methods and Preliminary Results

Fort Drum is a large (43,442 ha) U.S. Army installation located in northwestern New York State. Fort Drum provides nesting habitat for over 140 bird species, many of which are listed by New York State as endangered, threatened, or of special concern (Bolsinger and Rainbolt 2006). From early May – August 2012 surveys recording the abundance and distribution of Red-headed Woodpeckers were completed to identify

individual breeding territories. Once territorial pairs were located, intensive nest searching was conducted to locate individual nest cavities and subsequently monitor nests to evaluate survival and productivity. Nests were monitored every 3–4 days using a wireless video camera affixed to a 50 ft telescoping fiberglass pole. Consistently monitoring nests throughout the nesting cycle allows for calculation of nest survival and modeling of daily survival rates (DSR) relative various vegetative, environmental, and temporal parameters. To evaluate nest-site selection, vegetative measurements were made at nest-sites as well as randomly located sites throughout the study area. This study design allows for analytical assessment of ‘selected’ *versus* ‘available’ vegetation plot data.

A total of 15 Red-headed Woodpecker territories were located during the 2012 field season, with the majority of territories being located in areas dominated by oak savanna (i.e., grasslands interspersed with sparse patches of red and white oak). Nest trees were found for 14 of 15 territories (Table 1). The majority of nests were located in red and white oak, 63% and 21%, respectively. Less than half (n = 8) of the nests were located in snags, while the remaining nests (n = 11) were located in dead portions (typically limbs) of otherwise live trees. Overall, there was a high degree of variability in nest-sites, with cavities located from 3 – 15 m above ground, in both snags and live trees, and in limbs and trunks of trees (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Characteristics of nest trees selected by Red-headed Woodpeckers on Fort Drum.

Nest Trees Located	Territory	Nesting Attempt	Tree Species	Tree Condition
1	1	First	Red Oak	Snag
2	2	First	White Oak	Snag
3	3	First	Red Oak	Live
4	4	First	Red Oak	Snag
5	5	First	Red Pine	Live
6	6	First	Red Oak	Live
7	7	First	Red Oak	Snag
8	8	First	Red Oak	Live
9	9	First	Red Oak	Snag
10	10	First	Red Oak	Snag
11	6	Second	Red Oak	Live
12	12	First	Red Pine	Snag
13	13	First	E. Cottonwood	Live
14	14	First	Red Oak	Snag
15	15	First	White Oak	Live
16	5	Second	White Oak	Live
17	1	Second	White Oak	Snag
18	3	Second	Red Oak	Live
19	8	Second	Red Oak	Live

A total of 22 nesting attempts (14 first nest attempts, and 8 re-nest attempts; Table 2) were monitored during the 2012 field season. Of the 22 nesting attempts monitored, only 16 could be monitored using the wireless camera affixed to a telescoping pole (i.e., usable for calculating daily survival rates). Fifteen of 22 nesting attempts monitored failed before fledging young (apparent failure rate = 68%; Table 2). Predation was the major cause of nest failure, although there was little evidence to suggest the type of nest predator (i.e.,

mammalian, reptile, or avian). One nest failed due to exposure, and two nests failed due to apparently infertile eggs. In almost all cases, once nests failed the adult pair would attempt to re-nest in either the same cavity or excavate a new cavity in a nearby tree. The high predation rate of nests is initially startling, especially for a cavity nesting species which are typically thought to have increased nesting success due to the advantage of nest concealment. However, it is difficult to ascertain specific mechanisms of failure. Indeed, a focal objective of the 2013 field season will be to gain a better understanding of nest predation events.

**Table 2.** Characteristics of Red-headed Woodpecker nesting attempts monitored during the 2012 field season.

Nest Monitored	Territory	Monitored Nesting w/ Camera	Nesting Attempt	Success	No. Fledged	Cause of Failure
1	1	Y	First	Failed	0	Predation
2	2	Y	First	Fledged	2	-
3	3	N	First	Failed	0	NA
4	4	Y	First	Failed	0	Predation
5	5	Y	First	Failed	0	Predation
6	6	N	First	Failed	0	Predation
7	7	N	First	Failed	0	NA
8	8	Y	First	Failed	0	Exposure
9	9	Y	First	Failed	0	Predation
10	10	N	First	Failed	0	Predation
11	6	Y	Second	Fledged	1	-
12	12	N	First	Failed	0	NA
13	13	N	First	Fledged	≥ 1	-
14	14	Y	First	Failed	0	Predation
15	15	Y	First	Failed	0	Infertile Eggs
16	5	Y	Second	Fledged	1	-
17	1	Y	Second	Fledged	2	-
18	3	Y	Second	Failed	0	Predation
19	8	Y	Second	Failed	0	Predation
20	4	Y	Second	Failed	0	Infertile Eggs
21	14	Y	Second	Failed	0	Predation
22	15	Y	Second	Fledged	1	-

## Discussion and Future Prospects

At first glance, the Fort Drum Red-headed Woodpecker population appears to be highly dependent on oak savanna habitats to accommodate their nesting and foraging requirements, as nearly all territories were located in this habitat type. Red-headed Woodpeckers utilize a diversity of foraging methods (Smith et al. 2000) that includes aerial flycatching. The Fort Drum population may respond well to oak savanna habitats because they offer a combination of nesting substrate (e.g., abundant snags) and foraging habitat (i.e., open understory and abundant insects). Unfortunately, oak savanna is a very rare habitat type in the northeastern U.S., and is decreasing due to changes in land use and disturbance regimes. This reduction of available habitat may be a potential factor leading to the decline of this species in the Northeast (Smith et al. 2000).

As reported previously, the observed nesting success is seemingly low and of particular interest in this breeding population. Population growth (or decline) results from the combination of several demographic

parameters (e.g., adult survival and productivity), yet in short-lived species, productivity is often considered an important factor influencing population dynamics (Rodriguez 2002). Indeed, if Red-headed Woodpeckers are experiencing below-replacement rates of productivity, this factor alone may be a potential cause of decline.

The extreme paucity of information on Red-headed Woodpecker breeding ecology and habitat selection in the Northeastern portion of its range is surprising, especially given the observed population declines. More study of demographic parameters (e.g., adult survival) and habitat selection (e.g., in different habitat types and spatial scales) is certainly warranted. In order to develop conservation strategies for this species in the Northeast, management guidelines should be based on rigorously tested scientific data. Thus, the ultimate goal of this project (continuing through the 2013 summer field season) is to provide resource managers with the first quantitative assessment of Red-headed Woodpecker breeding ecology and habitat selection in the Northeast.

## Acknowledgments

This work was partially supported by a research grant from the Buffalo Ornithological Society. I would like to sincerely thank the Buffalo Ornithological Society for graciously providing support for this research project, and for offering small grant opportunities to budding ecologists such as myself.

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[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## November - December Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

### Bird Hotline Instructions

Dial 1-877-698-3261 (if busy 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335)

- 1) At the prompt, enter the # key then Enter Group ID & pin numbers 144238 1756
- 2) Press 1 to send a message
- 3) Press # as you will not need a response
- 4) Record your message - you have 45 seconds  
Press # to end the recording
- 5) Listen to your message if satisfied  
Press 1 to accept, if not press 2 to re-record.
- 6) Press # to send your message
- 7) Enter sub group number 02 not 00
- 8) At prompt press #.
- 9) again at prompt Press #; wait to hear your message sent confirmation

**Nov. 14: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Holly Sweeney, our BOS April Count Compiler, will discuss the results of the April Count. Holly will also share photos of her recent birding trip to Ethiopia.

**Nov. 18: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association,** for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569/[tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)).

**Dec. 12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have the election of officers for 2013.

**Dec. 15: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or [vanscoy716@hughes.net](mailto:vanscoy716@hughes.net)).

**Dec. 15: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (716-491-4408) or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 16: Sun. Buffalo Ornithological Society CBC.** Compiler: David Gordon, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com), 716-390-1429.

**Dec. 16: Sun. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin, [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca), 905-871-2577.

**Dec. 16: Sun. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 22: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. ([bartlett@buffaloaudubon](mailto:bartlett@buffaloaudubon) or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

**Dec. 27: Thurs. Niagara Falls (ON/NY) CBC.** Compilers: (Ontario) Kayo Roy, [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com), 905-892-4433, (New York State) Willie D'Anna, [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)), 716-751-3637.

**Dec. 28: Friday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

**Dec. 29: Satur. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell, [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569.

**Dec. 30: Sun. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell, [drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 586-441-8796. Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne.

**Jan. 1, Tues. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz, [goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627

**Jan. 9: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** TBA

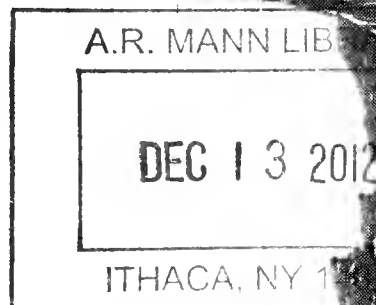
**Feb. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

**Book Review: "Rare Birds", by Elizabeth Gehrman**  
Grand Island native Elizabeth Gehrman has written an outstanding book, Rare Birds, about the rediscovery and rehabilitation of the Bermuda Petrel or Cahow after over 250 years when it was thought to be extinct. The book even has another local connection: Fred Hall, former Buffalo Museum of Science director plays a minor role in the rediscovery.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 78, No. 10 October 2012



### THE MONTH: September

Tim Baird

I cannot recall ever hearing anyone bad-mouth the month of September for weather or any other reason, though I suppose there are a few curmudgeons out there somewhere.

September 2012 brought an end to a warm, dry summer in western New York, but summer's heat tried to hang on early in the month. The first eight days, according to the National Weather Service's summary for Buffalo, were "well above average," but no record highs were set during the period. Contrasting with the first week, the remaining 22 days in September included 15 days with below average temperatures; however, thanks to summer's early grip, the month averaged out at 1.3 °F above normal.

Rainfall of 4.39 inches was nearly half an inch above normal making September the first month since April 2012 with above average precipitation. Most of the rain fell in two events early in the month on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> with these two dates combining for 2.49 inches of the total.

Available sunshine was well above the 57 percent September average at 73 percent. Lake Erie water temperature started the month at 2 °F above average, but cooled to average by the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Watson located a very early Tundra Swan in Dunnville, Ontario on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. One wonders how climate warming in the Arctic will affect tundra nesting species and their migratory patterns in the future.

The Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant holding ponds and Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area hosted good numbers of duck species. Birders at Batavia, particularly Fox's observations that included an Eared Grebe on the 28<sup>th</sup>, continued to document the site's

teal species including 200 Blue-winged Teal and 350 Green-winged Teal observed by Wasilco on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 495 Green-winged Teal located there by Morien *et. al.* on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Observations by D'Anna *et. al.* showed an increasing Common Loon presence on Lake Ontario with a maximum of 19 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

An American Avocet visited the Mosaic property in Dunnville, Ontario and was recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> (Watson *et. al.*) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Yoerg). DiTommaso identified and verified a Western Sandpiper at Tift Nature Preserve on the 5<sup>th</sup>, which was also verified by Watson and Mitchell.



Western Kingbird photographed by Willie D'Anna (Top) and Jim Pawlicki (Bottom) at Yates on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

- |     |                                 |                            |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 95  | <b>The Month</b>                | attraction to              |
|     | Tim Baird                       | waterfowl. Oak             |
| 97  | <b>Purple Martin Roost Site</b> | Orchard similarly          |
|     | Celeste Morien                  | attracted waterfowl        |
| 98  | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>       | including a                |
|     | Bruce Chilton & Statisticians   | Trumpeter Swan             |
| 103 | <b>Red Crossbill Irruption</b>  | seen by Watson on          |
|     |                                 | the 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Oak |
| 104 | <b>Calendar</b>                 | Orchard was the            |
|     |                                 | place to find both         |



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebechazy

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Pawlicki estimated 80 White-rumped Sandpipers over the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek at Sunset Bay. Pawlicki's description of the flock in flight noted, "all flashed very noticeable white uppertail coverts that appeared to lack any obvious dark center markings." Mitchell submitted photographs along with written verification for four Long-billed Dowitchers at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

There were scattered reports for Common Nighthawks, but low numbers continue to be a cause of concern for this declining species. On the other hand, Humann's observation of a few thousand Purple Martins on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Buckhorn Island State Park, and Mitchell's report of 2300 Common Grackles at Alden on

the 7<sup>th</sup> are notable numbers. Concerning the latter species, it is likely that such numbers are less than welcome should they decide to roost in one's yard. Humann's discovery of the martin roost is worth watching in future years.

Several observers documented and photographed a Western Kingbird in Yates on the 10<sup>th</sup> that was originally found by Ewald. This species is a relatively regular fall visitor on Long Island, but is less often encountered away from the coast. Of the 14 records for Western Kingbird in the B.O.S. files, 6 occurrences are from September. It is not uncommon for young birds to wander off their usual paths in the fall, and observers speculated that the Yates bird was a juvenile. More regular than the Western Kingbird, but still a noteworthy species, a White-eyed Vireo was located and documented at Woodlawn Beach State Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> by Pawlicki and Salembier. Pawlicki observed and reported this species again at Woodlawn Beach on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The B.O.S. records show a predominant occurrence for the White-eyed Vireo in spring and summer. Of the 123 records in the database, only 8 have occurred later than August.

Many warbler species are represented on this month's list. September is the time for the warblers and other Neotropical species to head home. It will be May of next year before we have the pleasure of encountering so

many warbler species once again. There's always something to look forward to when one has an interest in birds.

Thanks to David Suggs for providing information from the B.O.S. Database, and Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising for their improvement on the original draft of this article.



(Top) Long-billed Dowitchers photographed by Joseph Mitchell at Tonawanda WMA on September 4<sup>th</sup> and (Middle and Bottom) White-eyed Vireo photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Woodlawn Beach State Park on September 27<sup>th</sup>.





(Top) Western Sandpiper with Semipalmated Sandpiper and (Middle) Western Sandpiper with Semipalmated Plover photographed by Dean DiTommaso at Tifft NP on September 10<sup>th</sup> and ( Bottom) Whimbrel photographed by VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Notes on a Purple Martin Roost Site at Buckhorn Island State Park, Grand Island, NY.

*Celeste Morien*

On the evening of September 7, at Buckhorn Island State Park on Grand Island, Alec Humann observed a flock of 3000 Purple Martins over the cattails in the east river channel. Alec's description: "This area is well known by boaters as 'Grass Island' [see photo above] and is just offshore of the Sandy Beach Marina. I was excited to see a group of 16 martins when I first arrived around 6:15pm. I walked up to the cement bridge and began to notice many more martins (and Barn Swallows) flying towards the cattail island. Birds continued to arrive and broke up into 3 large groups; each group having 800-1000 birds! The groups alternated flying out mid-river to skim-drink off the water's surface while the other flocks circled low/high over the cattails. The sky was literally peppered with martins - just incredible!" This site is reached from the small parking lot at East-West Rd in Grand Island. Walk the path westward 0.4 miles until you reach an open area from where you can view the reed bed and roost. The reed bed coordinates are 43.063381, -78.974298.

The following evening, September 8 between 6:25 PM and 7:45 PM, four observers including Alec Humann, Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, and I revisited this site. We observed about 4000 – 4500 individuals, swirling above the reed bed and skimming the surface of the Niagara River to take drinks. This memorable evening ended when all the flocks of martins had entered the reeds by appearing to fall directly from above.

According to DEC Region 9 Biologist Connie Adams, the Purple Martins are using "a dense stand of cattail *Rhus* sp. probably narrow leaved cattail, with some Burr Reed on the margins, which is known as sunken island or grass island. This grass island is owned and managed by New York State Parks." DEC notes the area is of interest since it's a nesting area for at least one listed species, Pied-billed Grebe. According to Ms. Adams, "problems arise from recreational boaters who surround it with party boats and throw Frisbees around and toss balls for their dogs into the cattails." Ms. Adams adds the grass island was posted for many years. In the last few years it has been posted, but more enforcement is needed.

It's unknown if this is a historical, and regularly used, Purple Martin roost location. Several BOS records of this species at Niagara River locations suggest this possibility: Purple Martin, 8/25/71, 10,000, Grand Island, Klabundes; Purple Martin, 9/23/90, 6000, Niagara River, Watson; Purple Martin, 9/7/97, 500, Goat Island, Morgante. Other fall historical roost sites or large flocks of Purple Martins mentioned in the BOS archives are Eggertsville, Jamestown, Fort Erie and Times Beach, Buffalo. More information on martins can be found at the Purple Martin Conservation Association website <http://purplemartin.org> and at [www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org/purplemartins/index.html](http://www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org/purplemartins/index.html).

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cackling Goose	30F	1	Oakfield	Yoerg, Henderson
Mute Swan	19	7	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	5	Point Breeze	Callaghan
Trumpeter Swan	29	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Tundra Swan	<u>22F</u>	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Wood Duck	3; 7	17; 133	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	11	138	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Gadwall	3	31	Batavia WWTP	Fox
American Wigeon	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	20	137	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Black Duck	14	11	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Mallard	14	482	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Blue-winged Teal	6; 7	57; 33	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
"	7; 11	18; 30	Tifft NP	Salembier; Carlson
"	13	27	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Northern Shoveler	3; 14	26; 112	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	22	8	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Northern Pintail	7, 21	6, 6	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Green-winged Teal	20; 21	350; 495	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco; Morien
Redhead	3	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morien et al
"	8	2	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Morgante
"	23, 25	13, 2	Wilson	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	21; 24	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Watson, Pawlicki
Greater Scaup	13	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	19	5	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Lesser Scaup	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morien et al
"	18	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo..	Mitchell
White-winged Scoter	19	2	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Long-tailed Duck	13	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Bufflehead	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Watkins
"	24	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	16	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	9; 28	13; 162	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Fox;
"	22	1	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	24	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Ring-necked Pheasant	29	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Common Loon	9, 15, 29	1, 9, 19	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Pied-billed Grebe	6	34	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann
"	17	4	Gouinlocks Pond	Dart, Beattie
"	20, 21	1, 1	Great Baehre Swamp	Lewis
"	22	11	Attica Reservoir	Fox
Horned Grebe	15	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
D.-crested Cormorant	2	704	Buckhorn I, SP	Watson
"	6, 20	121, 129	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	13	650	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	519	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
American Bittern	3; 7	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Fell; Pawlicki
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Great Blue Heron	6	80	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Great Egret	9	2	Findley Lake	Leenders
"	13; 22	317; 280	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Morien, Watson
"	17	52	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	17; 22	93; 106	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Callaghan
"	18	5	Allegheny Reservoir	Pawlicki, Watson
Green Heron	3	18	Tifft NP	Humann
Black-cr. Night-Heron	7; 26	17; 6	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson
"	7; 13	26; 44	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Morien; Pawlicki
"	8	30	Squaw I.	Morgante
"	22	9	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Black Vulture	9; 18	3; 2	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Watson; D'Anna
Turkey Vulture	9	41	Lewiston	Watson, Pawlicki
Osprey	1	5	Iroquois NWR	Dart, Beattie
"	16	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad+1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	18	6	Allegheny Reservoir	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	1 ad + 1 juv	Allegheny SP	Baird (CCBC)
"	23	1 juv	Port Colborne (Ont)	Goodridge
Northern Harrier	20	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Broad-winged Hawk	23	1	RT Peterson Institute	Leenders
"	27	2	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
Merlin	2, 5	1, 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	5, 19	1, 2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	6	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg
"	17	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	22	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
"	3, 7	1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	30	1	S. Grand I. bridges	Humann
Virginia Rail	5	1	Beaver Meadow AC	Kerr
"	14;16	1; 3	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Yoerg
Sora	11	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	16	3	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg
American Coot	6; 24	32; 42	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
Black-bellied Plover	1, 15	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	13	7	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	18	3	Allegheny Reservoir	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22	6	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	23	12	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	8	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; Humann
"	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	13	23	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	23	6	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	8	31	Tifft NP	Humann (BOS)
Killdeer	9	100	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	181	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
* American Avocet	21; 23	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al; Yoerg
Solitary Sandpiper	27	2	Hanging Bog WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk
Whimbrel	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	8	4	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante et al
Ruddy Turnstone	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Sanderling	4; 5	1; 3	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie
"	18	1	Onoville Marina	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	35	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	2; 3	40; 60	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	10	1 juv	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Watson, Mitchell
Least Sandpiper	2; 3	50; 75	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Powell
White-r. Sandpiper	4; 5	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie
"	7; 8	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Humann
"	8	<u>80</u>	Sunset Bay, Hanover	Pawlicki
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Baird's Sandpiper	2; 3; 5	2; 3; 2	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox; Mitchell
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7 - 10	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki; Mitchell et al
"	13	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	23	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Pectoral Sandpiper	12; 16	30; 32	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Yoerg et al
"	22	11	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Stilt Sandpiper	4	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Mitchell
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Buff-br. Sandpiper	2; 3	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Watson
"	10	2	Haldimand (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	22	2	Niagara (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	23	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-b. Dowitcher	23	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	4	4	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Wilson's Snipe	25	1	Porter	D'Anna
Wilson's Phalarope	1; 3	1; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Dart, Beattie; Morien
Red-neck. Phalarope	1	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Dart, Beattie
"	9	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Goodridge
"	9, 23	2, 1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	28; 30	3; 3	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Yoerg
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15	2 juv	Evangola SP	DiTommaso
"	18	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Caspian Tern	7	22	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	13	44	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson
Common Tern	6	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	19, 23	29, 23	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	29	40	Fort Niagara SP	Guthrie
Forster's Tern	14	3	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
* Parasitic Jaeger	29	1	Fort Niagara SP	Guthrie
Red-headed Wdpckr.	2	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	3	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	1	Tifft NP	Brenner
"	27	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	1	N. Harmony	Leenders
Common Nighthawk	3	3	Bethany	Beattie
"	5	4	Alden	Mitchell
"	7	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann, D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Chimney Swift	1	55	Clay Pond WMA	Leenders
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	30	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3	1 juv	Tifft NP	Humann
"	9	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	16; 30	1; 3	Amherst SP	Salembier; D'Anna et al
Olive-s. Flycatcher	3	1	Tifft NP	Humann et al
"	3	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	4	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Eastern Wood-Pewee	26	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	28	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	3, 4, 6, 11	1, 1, 1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Least Flycatcher	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	9	1	French Creek Preserve	Leenders
"	16; 18L	1; 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Western Kingbird</u>	10	1	Yates	D'Anna, Lazarczyk, Pawlicki, Roy, Watson
Eastern Kingbird	1L	1	Clay Pond WMA	Leenders
* <u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	<u>22, 27</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	<u>22</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
Yellow-thr. Vireo	11, 16	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki et al
"	23L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Warbling Vireo	16L	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	17	2	Aurora	Holmes
"	18	3	Onoville	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28; 29	1; 1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Common Raven	2, 29	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	6, 23	1, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	16	1	Concord	DiTommaso
"	18	1	Angola	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Orchard Park	Rising
Horned Lark	22	83	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Purple Martin	6, 7	<u>3000, 4500</u>	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Tree Swallow	14	500	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	20	500	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Bank Swallow	9	25	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Barn Swallow	6	150	Buckhorn I. SP	Humann
Red-br. Nuthatch	30	16	Tifft NP	Humann
Winter Wren	12F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	16	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	21F	1	Amherst	Rising, Hollister
"	30	46	Lakeside Beach SP	Callaghan
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	7F	1	RT Peterson Institute	Leenders
"	11	1	Wilson	Potter
Veery	16	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Gray-cheeked Thrush	7	1	Wilson	Potter, Morien et al
"	10	1	Tonawanda (flyover)	Hess
"	16	6	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	16	4	NE Buffalo (flyover)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Galas et al
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Swainson's Thrush	16	10	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	23	2	Aurora	Holmes
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Hermit Thrush	15F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Wood Thrush	25, 26	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
Northern Mockingbird	17	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	29	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Brown Thrasher	5; 19	3; 2	Tifft NP	Humann; Sharon
"	9	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	16; 18-27	7; 1 - 3	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Salembier
"	25	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
American Pipit	25F	30	Porter	D'Anna
"	27	35	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
Ovenbird	11; 26	1; 1	Tifft NP	Mitchell; Watson
Northern Waterthrush	4 - 19	1- 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	16	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Golden-wing. Warbler	18	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Blue-winged Warbler	13	1	Wilson	Potter
"	17L	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Black-&-white Warbler	23	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
Tennessee Warbler	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	5F	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	9	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter
"	27; 30	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Potter et al
Nashville Warbler	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	6	Tifft NP	Humann
Mourning Warbler	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	22	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki
Hooded Warbler	21	1	Golden Hill SP	Morse
"	22	1	Aurora	Holmes
American Redstart	15	7	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	23	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Cape May Warbler	14	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	18	3	Onoville	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28; 29	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Brenner
Northern Parula	11	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	28	1	UB north campus	Hollister, Rising
Magnolia Warbler	21	3, 7	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	23	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Bay-breasted Warbler	26	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	26, 27	2, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blackburnian Warbler	7	2	Niagara Falls	Morien
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Galas et al
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Yellow Warbler	21	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
Chestnut-s. Warbler	23	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Palm Warbler	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	12	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	23	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	1	Hanging Bog WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk
Yellow-r. Warbler	29	30	East Amherst	Lewis
"	30	60	Tifft NP	Humann
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	26	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Galas et al
"	29	1	East Amherst	Lewis
"	29	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Canada Warbler	6, 15	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
Wilson's Warbler	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Eastern Towhee	28	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Somerset	Potter, D'Anna
Savannah Sparrow	27	9	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Song Sparrow	12	1 ad+2 fl	Salamanca	Baird
Lincoln's Sparrow	10F, 26	1, 2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	11	1	Bond Lake CP	Yoerg
"	15; 19	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Mitchell et al
"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	8F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	2	East Amherst	Lewis
White-cr. Sparrow	27F	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	3	North Tonawanda	Deed
Dark-eyed Junco	13	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
Scarlet Tanager	27	4	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Rose-br. Grosbeak	13	10	Grnwood Cem, Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	10	Onoville	Pawlicki, Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19, 27	8, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Indigo Bunting	23	1	Orangeville	Fox
Bobolink	2L	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Rusty Blackbird	20F	1	Great Baehre Swamp	Lewis
"	27	3	Hanging Bog WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk
Common Grackle	7	2300	Alden	Mitchell
Baltimore Oriole	7	1	Tifft NP	Giles, Brenner
Purple Finch	6, 19	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	18	4	Onoville	Watson, Pawlicki
Pine Siskin	6	1	Wilson	Potter
"	15	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Fell
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:				277
Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month:				5
<b>Total for the year 2012:</b>				<b><u>282</u></b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

## Red Crossbill Irruption Monitoring

*reprinted from ABA Flight Calls #71 with  
permission from the American Birding  
Association (ABA)*

Birders in the eastern part of the continent are calling this the best winter finch winter in decades, perhaps even more amazing in that it's not even officially winter yet! Both White-winged and Red Crossbills have been sweeping across the East in incredible numbers.

This season has seen reports of multiple types of Red Crossbills-- each subtly distinctive in bill, size, food preference, and flight call--in most regions in which the species has been reported. North American Birds editor Ned Brinkley, who is based on the eastern shore of Virginia, reports that both Type 3 and Type 10 Red Crossbills have turned up in that state this fall. Neither of those types has ever been recorded in the past.



An enormous amount of information can be acquired during these finch years from regular birders noting the sounds they hear from the bird they're seeing. Even

something as simple as obtaining a recording can be a big deal for science, and these days most cell phones are capable of picking one up one of sufficient quality to make the ID. Earlier this fall, Matt Young at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology wrote a primer posted to the eBird website ([LINK](#)) laying out the differences between the Red Crossbill types with several incredibly useful audio examples.

The ABA's journal of ornithological record, [North American Birds](#), has been on the forefront of the crossbill ID revolution with several articles, by none other than Matt Young, focusing on status, distribution, and identification of the various types. Those posts, now suddenly exceedingly relevant, are now hosted free on the ABA site and [see the ABA Blog for additional information on identifying the different types of Red Crossbills] [can be accessed through The ABA Blog](#). Photo by Corey Finger - Long Island, NY, 11/2012



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## December - January Calendar & Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

### Bird Hotline Instructions

Dial **1-877-698-3261** (if busy 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335)

- 1) At the prompt, enter the **#** key then Enter Group ID & pin numbers **144238 1756**
- 2) Press **1** to send a message
- 3) Press **#** as **you will not need** a response
- 4) Record your message - you have 45 seconds  
Press **#** to end the recording
- 5) Listen to your message if satisfied  
Press **1** to accept, if not press **2** to re-record.
- 6) Press **#** to send your message
- 7) **Enter sub group number 02 not 00**
- 8) At prompt press **#**.
- 9) again at prompt Press **#**; wait to hear your message sent confirmation

### **Dec.12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday**

**Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have the election of officers for 2013.

**Dec. 15: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or [vanscoy716@hughes.net](mailto:vanscoy716@hughes.net)).

**Dec. 15: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (716-491-4408) or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 16: Sun. Buffalo Ornithological Society CBC.** Compiler: David Gordon, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com), 716-390-1429.

**Dec. 16: Sun. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin, [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca), 905-871-2577.

**Dec. 16: Sun. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 22: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. ([bartlett@buffaloaudubon](mailto:bartlett@buffaloaudubon) or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

**Dec. 27: Thurs. Niagara Falls (ON/NY) CBC.** Compilers: (Ontario) Kayo Roy, [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com), 905-892-4433, (New York State) Willie D'Anna, [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com), 716-751-3637.

**Dec. 28: Friday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

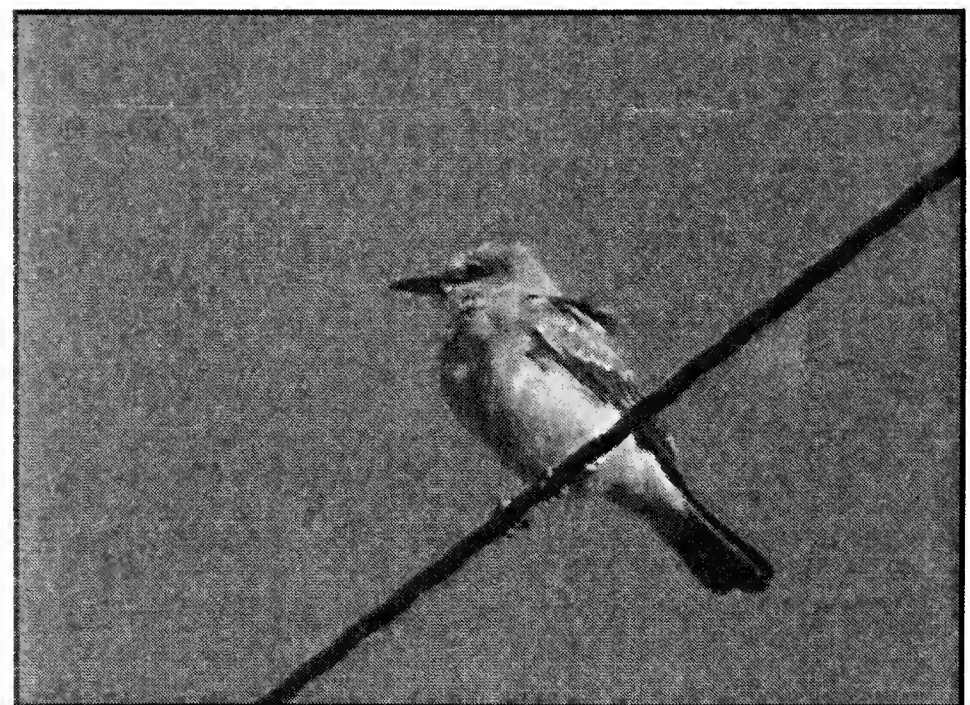
**Dec. 29: Satur. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell, [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569.

**Dec. 30: Sun. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell, [drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 586-441-8796. Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne.

**Jan. 1, Tues. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz, [goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627

**Jan. 9: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** TBA

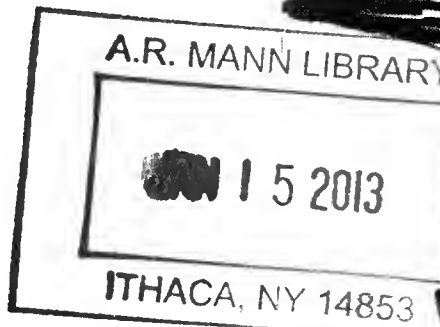
**Feb. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."



**Western Kingbird photographed by Kayo Roy at Yates on September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 78, No. 11 November 2012

### THE MONTH: October

Bill Watson

**The Weather:** The month's mean temperature was exactly the same as in 2011, 52.2 °F (1.4 °F above normal). Although the month was relatively cold from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, the rest of the month was moderate due to high humidity, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> the temperature reached a record 79 °F. During the month the temperature of Lake Erie fell from 64 to 54 °F. The total precipitation was 6.98 inches, 3.46 inches above normal, with 1.42 inches on the 29<sup>th</sup> due to the remnants of Hurricane Sandy. Despite receiving about twice the monthly rainfall, a very dry 2012 still had a deficit of 4.47 inches. There was no measurable snow recorded. The strongest winds on the 15<sup>th</sup> reached gusts of 49 mph from the south. October had 38% of the possible sunshine, 12% below the normal.

**Early arrivals:** This October we had only one early arrival requiring a verification report. The fewer verification reports this October are a result of the expanded dates in the revised Verification Date Guide (2012) and not due to lack of observer effort.

Last year we had our earliest (Oct. 9, 2011, Oakfield) and second earliest (Oct. 12, 2011, Iroquois NWR) fall, migrant Greater White-fronted Geese. This year's trend continued, and we broke the 2011 records for earliest and second earliest records. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Willie D'Anna and Dean DiTommaso were looking at Canada Geese at the Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant in Somerset when Dean saw two Greater White-fronted Geese. One day later at Sinking Ponds in East Aurora Linda Holmes found another one. These two reports now represent the earliest and second earliest records of this species.

There is also an increasing number of fall records of Greater White-fronted Geese. Our first fall record was on December 13, 1945, by Art Schaffner "on the Niagara River off Buckhorn Island," then in 1973 from November 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> one was observed on Ring-necked Marsh in

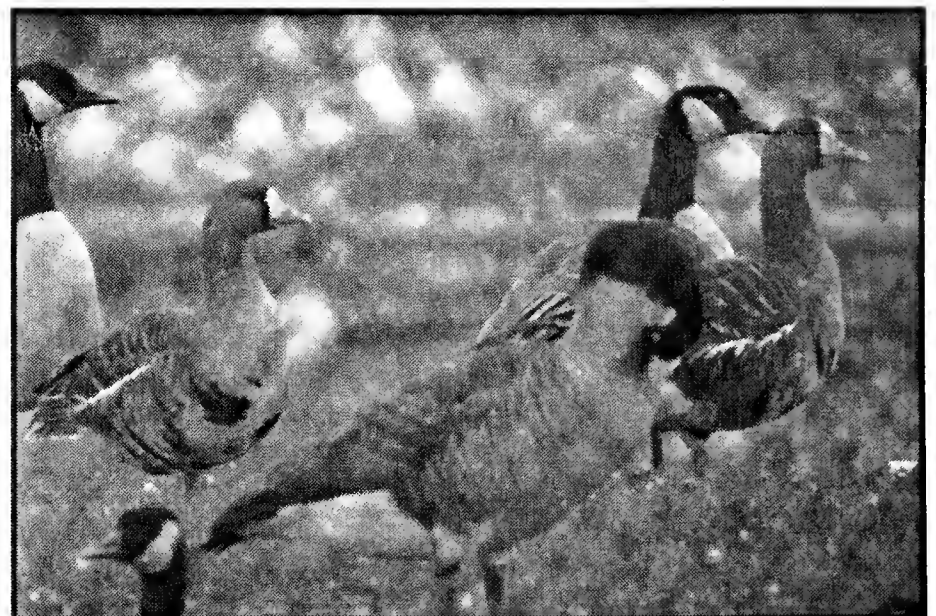
were 13 records, and in our present century there are now 19 fall records. Of the previous 33 fall records, 11 are in October, 14 in November, and 8 in December.

Some early records not requiring Verification Reports are Cackling Geese on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> which are our eighth and ninth earliest fall records, a Red-necked Grebe on the 1<sup>st</sup> is our sixth earliest record, a Purple Sandpiper at Fort Niagara on the 30<sup>th</sup> is our earliest record, a Lapland Longspur on the 19 is our eleventh earliest record, and a Fox Sparrow on the 7<sup>th</sup> is our eighth earliest record.

Since 2001, October records of Evening Grosbeak have been uncommon, only being recorded once in 2005 and once in 2006. Current populations of this species are lower than several decades ago in most regions of North America. In his Winter Finch forecast Ron Pittaway said: "We can expect some [Evening Grosbeaks] at feeders ... in the Northeast because coniferous and hardwood tree seed supplies are low [in usual wintering areas]." He was right and this October, and to the joy and excitement of BOS birders, we have already had six records this month.

**Late Departures:** The only record requiring a Verification Report on the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual BOS October Bird Count, October 14<sup>th</sup>, was a Philadelphia Vireo found by Mike Morgante on the property of Ecology and Environment Inc. in Lancaster. Mike wrote in part, "The

- |     |                                          |                             |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 105 | <b>The Month</b>                         | Iroquois NWR and            |
|     | <i>Bill Watson</i>                       | again at the same           |
| 109 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>                | location on                 |
|     | <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> | December 2 <sup>nd</sup> by |
| 115 | <b>October Count 2012</b>                | Schrader. There             |
|     | <i>Marcie Jacklin</i>                    | was another record          |
| 120 | <b>Calendar</b>                          | in 1988, while in           |
|     |                                          | the 1990s there             |



Greater White-fronted Geese photographed by Willie D'Anna at Somerset on October 7<sup>th</sup>.



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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazi

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bird had plain olive green upperparts and yellowish throat, breast, belly. The bird showed a distinct dark line through eye with thin white above and below. This dark line connected from the eye to the base of the bill. ...There was a grayish-green cap that was more pronounced gray when the bird had its head facing down... There were no hints of wingbars..." The only later departures of this species are of a bird found on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Rock Point, Ontario, 1958, by the Ulrichs and Brownstein, and one on the BOS Annual October Count (called the Fall Duck Census back then) on October 15, 1939, by the Clark S. Beardslee group, while doing the Niagara Loop. This bird was "seen at very close range" and was "unmistakable."

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Jim Pawlicki found and

photographed an extremely late Clay-colored Sparrow at Bennett Beach in the Town of Evans. This bird was re-found by Joe Mitchell on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the latest record of this species in the BOS territory. The only other record of a Clay-colored Sparrow in October was also seen by Joe Mitchell October 9, 2011, on the BOS October Bird Count. Clay-colored Sparrows recently seem to be migrating later with five of our six latest records in the last six years. This is likely due to their increase in our area during the last decade.

Clay-colored Sparrow was not the only bird to have a record late departure date. Dean Di Tommaso found a Mourning Warbler on the 10<sup>th</sup> and again on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Woodlawn Beach State Park. Then on the 17<sup>th</sup> he was surprised to see that the bird had lost all of its tail! The bird stayed until the 20<sup>th</sup> and was well documented and photographed by Dean (who carefully eliminated MacGillivray's Warbler). The previous late date for Mourning Warbler was an individual seen October 18<sup>th</sup> in Alfred by Elizabeth Brooks. The October 20<sup>th</sup> record is also later than the New York State extreme date of October 19<sup>th</sup> in Bull's Birds of New York State (Levine 1998).

October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, Steve Taylor spied our third latest ever departure of Wilson's Phalarope. Steve wrote: "I eliminated Red

phalarope and Red-necked phalarope by the pale grey, uniformly colored back; pale grey head and nape of the neck; pale grey stripe through the eye; very long needle-like black bill; and yellow legs."

It was seen again by Joe Mitchell on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Doug Beattie on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Our only other Wilson's Phalarope found in this month was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> by Paul and Mary Benham and Richard Brownstein at St. Davids, Ontario, in 1967.



(Top) Wilson's Phalarope photographed by Joe Mitchell at Batavia WWTP on October 19<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Clay-colored Sparrow photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Bennett Beach on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Mourning Warbler photographed by Dean DiTommaso at Woodlawn Beach State Park on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Willie D'Anna had a nice day of birding on October 8<sup>th</sup> finding seven Red-necked Grebes in Wilson, a late American Bittern at Iroquois NWR, and a very late Bobolink in Porter. He was traveling along Youngstown-Wilson Road, just east of Dickersonville Road, when he observed Savannah Sparrows drop from the wires into a weedy field. As he was observing the Savannah Sparrows, a beautiful fall plumage Bobolink popped into view. Unlike the previously mentioned late departures, Bobolinks have more of a history of being late. This is because, like many of the grassland birds, they were much more abundant in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s than they are today. We no longer see flocks of 2,000 Bobolinks in September. I was able to find nine other records of October Bobolinks. The latest (and only November record) was one coming to Harold and Rachel Axtell's feeder on Rosehill Road, Fort Erie on November 7, 1967.

Species not requiring a Verification Report, but still extraordinary based on their lateness in the 1960-2011 BOS Noteworthy Database are: fifth latest Least Bittern on the 7<sup>th</sup>; tied for latest Least Sandpiper at Jamestown on the 26<sup>th</sup>; tenth latest Semipalmated Sandpiper on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; third latest Red-necked Phalarope on 12<sup>th</sup>; second latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 11<sup>th</sup>; sixth latest Palm Warbler on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and fourth latest Lincoln's Sparrow on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Rarities:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> Willie D'Anna had several small groups of swallows (2-5 birds) fly-by his home and three individuals were identified as Cave Swallows based upon their pale throat, pale neck, and dark cap, among other features. Although Cave Swallows have been often reported flying at high elevations along the south shore of Lake Ontario, sometimes in large groups, they are not always successfully documented. We have nine records of this species, all of which are in November (2002-2012), so this is our first October record.

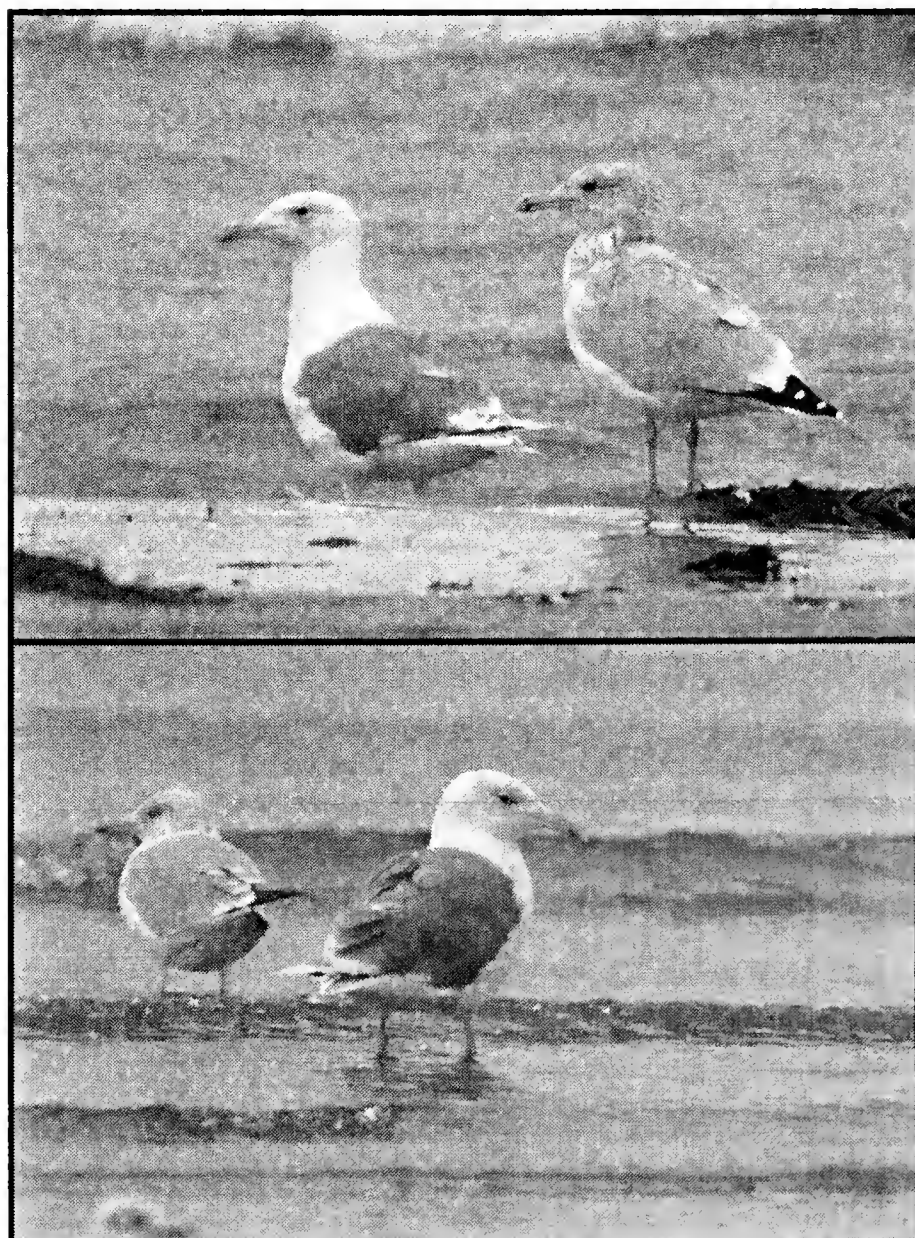
Another yard bird Willie had was a breeding plumage Pacific Loon on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Wilson. There are few records of this species in our region. On May 22, 1944, Brockner and Tulnuff saw a small loon, with a number of characteristics suggesting it was likely an Arctic Loon. Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axtell on April 26, 1959 have a very detailed account of an Arctic Loon, observed initially at Point Breeze on April 26, 1959, in *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* (pp. 80-81). Then, in 1985, the AOU separated the two very similar races of Arctic Loon and Pacific Loon into two species, much to the chagrin of birders that try to differentiate these (now two) species. Since no specimens of proven Arctic Loon have been found in eastern North America, it is generally assumed by most birders that they are looking at a Pacific Loon rather than an Arctic loon. Two accepted BOS records by the New York State Avian Record Committee are: a November 11, 1995, Pacific Loon reported by Stephen Kelling, and a November 24, 1996, record reported by Robert Spahn. Both were observed in the Niagara River Gorge at Niagara Falls.

Since only 11% of our White-eyed Vireo records occur from August to December, inclusive, I consider this species very rare during the fall. The one Joe Mitchell had at Woodlawn Beach S. P. on the 1<sup>st</sup> is our fifth October record. October is the best fall month for this species. August, September, November, and December

only have four, three, one, and zero records, respectively. Its appearance as a fall migrant has been fairly recent with all but two of thirteen records after 1988.

**IT'S BACK...** Remember the possible Great Black-backed X Glaucous Gull hybrid last year initially seen and photographed by Willie D'Anna at Dunkirk Harbor on the 2nd, and then amazingly observed by Jim Pawlicki further north on the Lake Erie shore in Hamburg on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Woodlawn Beach State Park on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and again by Mike Zebehazy at Hamburg Town Park on October 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>? ...Careful analysis of photos shows it is back again this year. Jim Pawlicki doggedly pursued this bird on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Sunset Bay in Hanover and on the 31<sup>st</sup> at Lake Erie S. P., his efforts resulted in excellent photographic documentation.

At the end of the month Hurricane Sandy devastated costal New York and New Jersey, but every storm cloud has a silver lining and there was a plethora of oceanic birds on Lake Ontario. The large Storm-Petrel species observed by Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell at Fort Niagara on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:10 AM is our first October record. There are only three September records of Wilson's Storm-Petrel in the BOS archives, which were brought in by Hurricane Fran in 1996 and Hurricane Isabella in 2003. Considering its size, shape, white rump, and particular shearwater flight style, it was thought by the observers to be a Leach's Storm-Petrel. In his Geneseebirds email Jim stated: "The flight was very shearwater-like with occasional higher arcs and on three occasions the bird briefly paused to face into the wind



**Putative Great Black-backed X Glaucous Gull hybrid** photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Sunset Bay in Hanover on October 5<sup>th</sup> (TOP) and on the 13<sup>th</sup> (Bottom).



and drop down to the water before continuing back to the west. After about a minute and half we lost it distantly out over the lake to the NW. At 11:45 Brandon Holden in Ontario texted that they had just seen a Leach's Storm-Petrel about 35 miles to the west at Van Wagners beach in Hamilton, Ontario, perhaps the same individual that we had steadily moving west." (This bird was first spotted by Don Davis and flying close to shore and photographed by David Bell and Brandon Holden.) In Ontbirds Glenn Coady also reported a Leach's Storm-Petrel at Thicksen Woods "about 9:15 ... fly past my place going west to east about 250 - 300 metres off shore." The possible species status of the bird in the BOS region is pending additional review. If accepted it would be our first Leach's Storm-Petrel. Other extralimital species that may have been relocated by hurricane Sandy and reported near the BOS area were Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Laughing Gull, Razorbill, and Magnificent Frigatebird.

Other rarities not requiring Verification Reports are the: Cattle Egret, Black Vultures, Sandhill Crane, Nelson's Sparrow, Sabine's Gull, Franklin's Gull, and Parasitic Jaeger.

Lastly there have been many reports of Australian Black Swans in our area this month, mostly at or near the Batavia W.W.T.P. and Iroquois N.W.R. If you see any of them please inform Kathy Willard at 585-519-2531 and she will come and capture them. The three swans were an anniversary present and she loves them dearly.

**High Counts:** There were many high counts this October. When compared to numbers in the 1964-2011 Noteworthy Records Database the following represent the highest counts ever in the BOS study area (in parentheses are the previous highs): Brant 4,455 (3100), Wood Duck 600 (550), Green-winged Teal 786 (680), Ring-necked Duck 939 (909), Black Scoter 880 (450), and Common Loon 1,500 (1,480). The 30 Great Egrets is tied for the most in October. Dave Junkin banded 37 Northern Saw-whet Owls between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Mike Zebehazy, and Mike Morgante, for making helpful suggestions for The Month, and acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month:

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

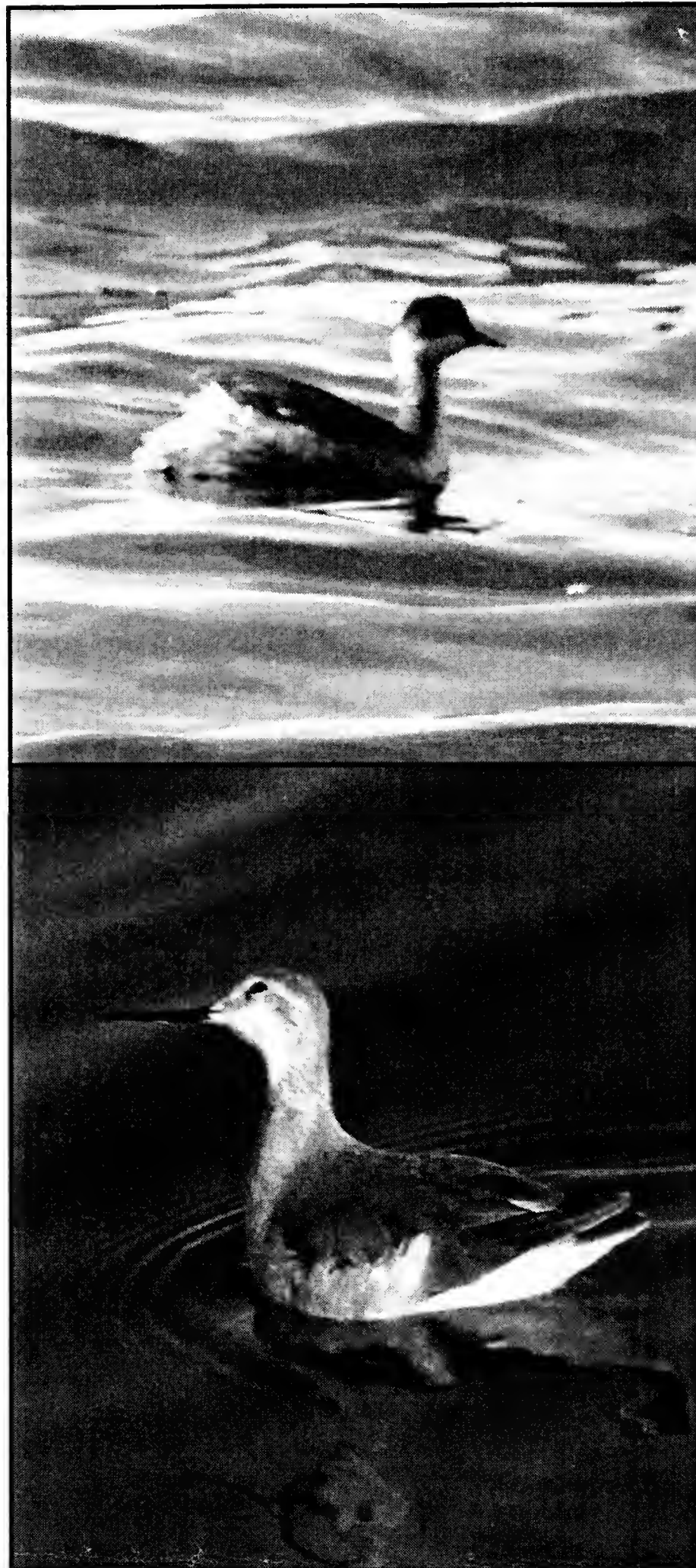
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Somerside, C. A. "Fall Duck Census" Prothonotary. 5:11:3 1939.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Wood, U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.



(Top) Eared Grebe photographed by Steve Taylor at the Batavia WWTP on October 18<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Wilson's Phalarope photographed by Doug Beattie on October 20<sup>th</sup>.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fronted Goose	<u>7F</u>	2	Somerset	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	<u>8</u>	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
"	22; 25	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Watson
Snow Goose	8F	1	Iroquois NWR	Callaghan
"	30	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	31	49	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Brant	17F; 19	1; 1	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna; Watson, Pawlicki
"	25; 31	38; 400	Shadigee	Morien; D'Anna et al
"	28; 31	314; 42	Point Breeze	Callaghan; Dart, Beattie
"	30	575; 1397	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg; Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	30	1340	Shadigee	Morien
"	30	250	Barker	Lazarczyk
"	30; 31	<u>4455</u> ; 250	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al; D'Anna
"	30	2675	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Cackling Goose	7	14	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	8; 22; 25	1; 25; 35	Iroquois NWR	Holmes; Pawlicki; Watson
"	10; 20	2; 1	Lewiston	Kerr; Fell
"	19	1	Franklinville	Wood
"	20; 21	1; 2	Oakfield	Sucy et al; Yoerg
"	20	8	Somerset	Fell
"	31	7	South Dayton	Watson
Mute Swan	8	13	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna
"	19	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	30	12	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Wood Duck	11; 13	500; 600	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Fox
Gadwall	20, 30	45, 49	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	28	129	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	31	22	South Dayton	Watson
American Wigeon	23; 30	65; 56	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Beattie
"	11; 25	125; 126	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
"	24	53	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Black Duck	18; 25	8; 14	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Watson
Mallard	20	1013	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Blue-winged Teal	8; 27L	50; 2	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Sucy
Northern Shoveler	12	6	Kiantone	Berry
"	20; 30	44; 60	Batavia WWTP	Sucy; Beattie
"	31	4	Olcott	Morgante
Northern Pintail	7	157	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	18; 30	12; 40	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Beattie
"	30	84	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	12	70	Tift NP	Sharon
"	20; 25	786; 360	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Watson
Canvasback	24	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	5	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	31	1	South Dayton	Watson
Redhead	25	21	Celeron	Leenders

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	2	South Dayton	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	24	11	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	939	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	30	12	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	31	56	South Dayton	Watson
"	31	85	Chautauqua Lake	Watson, Callaghan
Greater Scaup	6	20	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	1100	Niagara Falls	Watson
Lesser Scaup	15	31	Wilson	D'Anna
"	18; 30	1; 8	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Beattie
"	24	30	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	31	22	South Dayton	Watson
Surf Scoter	6F, 15	2, 33	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11	24	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	15	20	Buffalo Harbor	Callaghan
"	30; 31	40; 10	Golden Hill SP	Lazarczyk et al; Morien
"	31	2	Hamburg	Mitchell
White-winged Scoter	1; 7	2; 285	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	30	198	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	31	30	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black Scoter	21; 31	20; 15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin; Yoerg
"	30	245	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	31	<u>880</u>	Golden Hill SP	Morien, D'Anna et al
Black or Surf Scoter	30	30	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	30	618	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Long-tailed Duck	6, 15	1, 15	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30; 31	570; 1000	Golden Hill SP	Watson; Morien et al
Bufflehead	25; 30	2; 92	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	30	256	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Callaghan
"	31	500	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Goldeneye	21F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	31	50	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
Common Merganser	30	230	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell
Red-br. Merganser	30	1000	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	30	1048	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	12	41	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	25; 30	333; 562	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox, Beattie
"	26	78	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	28	21	Almond	Brooks
"	31	158	South Dayton	Watson
"	31	198	Chautauqua Lake	Watson
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Red-throated Loon	6F, 15	2, 19	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30; 31	17; 100	Golden Hill SP	Watson; Morien et al
"	31	14	Point Breeze	Dart, Beattie
"	31	16	Lakeside Beach SP	Dart, Beattie
* <u>Pacific Loon</u>	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	1, 21	17, 289	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21; 30	1500; 58	Golden Hill SP	Morien et al; Watson
"	31	350	Lake Erie SP	Callaghan
Pied-billed Grebe	31	57	South Dayton	Watson
"	31	47	Chautauqua Lake	Callaghan
Horned Grebe	25	33	Shadigee	Morien
"	30; 31	27; 100	Golden Hill SP	Watson; Morien et al
"	31	77	Chautauqua Lake	Watson
"	31	100	Olcott	Morgante
"	31	296	Barcelona Harbor	Callaghan
Red-necked Grebe	1, 8, 21	1, 7, 8	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	30; 31	9; 22	Golden Hill SP	Watson; Morien et al
"	31	1	South Dayton	Watson
Eared Grebe	1 - 30	1 - 2	Batavia WWTP	Many observers
* <u>Storm-Petrel species</u>	30	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Double-cr. Cormorant	4	599	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson

<b>Species</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
"	23	835	Erie Basin Marina	Callaghan
"	30	266	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	31	410	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
American Bittern	8	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Least Bittern	7L	1	Carroll	Berry
Great Egret	6	2	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	9; 23	93; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	10	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	13; 17	30; 29	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco; Watson
Cattle Egret	31	1	Iroquois NWR	J&K Landau
Black-cr. Night-Heron	9; 23	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
Black Vulture	17	1	Artpark	Kerr
"	25	1	Lewiston	Fell
"	30	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	13, 20	1, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	25	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	2 ad	Almond	Brooks
"	31	2	South Dayton	Watson
"	31	4	Barcelona Harbor	Callaghan
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
"	26	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Sora	20, 24	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Common Gallinule	9	6	Iroquois NWR	Watson
American Coot	9	51	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	400	Mayville	Goetz
"	31	955	Chautauqua Lake	Callaghan
"	31	188	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Sandhill Crane	12	1	Clymer	Leenders
Black-bellied Plover	5	5	Buffalo Harbor	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	13	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	15	1	Hamburg Town Park	Yoerg
"	22; 25	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Watson
"	31	2	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
American Golden-Plover	2	6	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Semipalmated Plover	17L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Ziemba
Greater Yellowlegs	20, 28	18, 17	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	31	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Yellowlegs	9; 16	3; 10	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Yoerg
"	26	2	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	31L	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Hartquist
Sanderling	31	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	22; 23L	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Morien
Least Sandpiper	26L	2	Jamestown	Leenders
White-rumped Sand.	28L	2	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Pectoral Sandpiper	28	13	Iroquois NWR	Fox
	30L	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Purple Sandpiper	30F	6	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	31	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Dunlin	6	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	7	1	Point Breeze	Morgante
"	16; 22	32; 39	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Pawlicki
"	26	2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Stilt Sandpiper	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Pawlicki
"	22L	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Wilson's Snipe	2; 16	14; 1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Yoerg
"	18	40	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
"	26	59	Jamestown	Leenders
Wilson's Phalarope	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Taylor
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Red-necked Phalarope	1	1	Morgans Point (Ont)	Goodridge
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	12	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien



<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin
* Sabine's Gull	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Bonaparte's Gull	8	3	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
Little Gull	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	31	1	Golden Hill SP	Morien, D'Anna et al
"	31	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
Franklin's Gull	3	1 ad	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
Herring Gull	15	176	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Black-back. Gull	6	1 ad	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	19	1	Cuba Lake	Wood
"	23	1	Olcott	Mitchell
"	24	1	Goat I.	Watson
Common Tern	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	7	1	Point Breeze	Morgante
"	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Forster's Tern	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell, Morien
"	31	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
Parasitic Jaeger	5	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	15, 26	1 juv, 1 juv	Wilson	D'Anna
"	23	1	Fort Niagara SP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Golden Hill SP	Morien et al
Jaeger species	26	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg
"	31	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3 - 31	37 total	Wethersfield	Junkin
Chimney Swift	1	9	UB north campus	Hollister
"	2	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8	4	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	9	1	Grand I.	Humann
"	11L	1	Alfred	Peterson
Red-head. Woodpecker	1	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Mitchell
Merlin	5; 30	1; 1	Buffalo	Yoerg; Callaghan
"	7	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Golden Hill SP	Morien, D'Anna et al
Peregrine Falcon	7	1	Somerset	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	7, 10	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Alfred	Peterson
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
Northern Shrike	25; 31	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; J&K Landau
"	26	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
White-eyed Vireo	<u>1</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Mitchell, Lazarczyk
Blue-headed Vireo	13	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	18L	1	Ward	Brooks
Red-eyed Vireo	25L	1	UB north campus	Rising, Hollister
Common Raven	9	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	13	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	25	2	Ward	Brooks
N. Rough-wing. Swallow	13	18	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Tree Swallow	8	250	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	31	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
* <u>Cave Swallow</u>	26	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Barn Swallow	20; 25L	6; 1	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Watson et al
Swallow species	26	8	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
House Wren	15L	1	Bennett Beach	Mitchell
Marsh Wren	18	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Swainson's Thrush	15L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Hermit Thrush	7	10	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	19	5	Porter	Watson
"	19	8	Amherst SP	Salembier
Wood Thrush	17L	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
"	9	1	Tonawanda	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Brown Thrasher	1	1	Jos. Davis SP	Kerr
"	2-4	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
American Pipit	6; 19	60; 40	Wilson	Fell; Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	20	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	25	50	Yates	Morien
Lapland Longspur	19; 23	10; 10	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki; D'Anna
Snow Bunting	20, 24	1, 19	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25	4	Yates	Morien
"	27	2	Wilson Pier	D'Anna
Ovenbird	12L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Orange-crowned Warb.	9; 11	5; 2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Salembier
"	16L	1	Aurora	Holmes
Nashville Warbler	5	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	7; 10	2; 1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg; Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	3	Tifft NP	Sharon
Mourning Warbler	<u>10 - 20L</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
Common Yellowthroat	19	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
American Redstart	7L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
Cape May Warbler	1	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Northern Parula	10L	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki
Magnolia Warbler	5L	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Bay-breasted Warbler	5L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	21L	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	15	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton, Callaghan
Palm Warbler	24L	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Black-thr. Green Warbler	2	1	Aurora	Holmes
"	5L	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Towhee	8	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	1	Times Beach NP	Sharon
"	31	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	31	1	Colden	J&K Landau
American Tree Sparrow	19	2	Busti	Berry
"	24	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Clay-colored Sparrow	<u>13; 15</u>	1	Bennett Beach	Pawlicki; Mitchell
Field Sparrow	29	5	Tonawanda	Watson
* Nelson's Sparrow	7, 8	4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	13	1	Evangola SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	13; 21	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Fox; R&D DeLeon
Fox Sparrow	7F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	12	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	16	Tonawanda	Watson
"	27	13	Alfred	Brooks
Lincoln's Sparrow	24L	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki
"	24L	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
White-crowned Sparrow	4	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	8	Alfred	Brooks
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	22 - 31	1	Colden	J&K Landau
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	9; 11	1; 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Salembier
Indigo Bunting	13L	1	Watts Flats WMA	Leenders
Bobolink	<u>8</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna
Red-winged Blackbird	3	150	Lewiston	Hess
"	13	7500	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Eastern Meadowlark	19	6	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	26	10	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Rusty Blackbird	3	40	Lewiston	Hess
"	8; 11	1500; 500	Iroquois NWR	Fox; Morien
"	12	26	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	30	55	Alexander	Dart
Common Grackle	3	500	Lewiston	Hess
"	8	8000	Iroquois NWR	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Purple Finch	1, 8	3, 3	Aurora	Holmes
"	12	1	Fredonia	Goetz
"	19	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	1	Harmony	Berry
White-winged Crossbill	26F	30	Lancaster	Morgante
"	26F	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	26F	12	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Common Redpoll	31F	10	Shadigee	Potter
Pine Siskin	1	20	Grand I.	Lazarczyk, Pawlicki
"	11 – 31	1 - 20	Fredonia	Goetz
"	23	29	Shelby	Morien
"	26	27	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26 – 31	2 - 24	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8 – 28	1 - 8	Throughout WNY	5 other reports
American Goldfinch	26	85	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Evening Grosbeak	20	3	Wethersfield	Junkin, Wells et al
"	21, 26	13, 20	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	23	8	Burt	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	23 – 29	1 - 3	Throughout WNY	4 other reports

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 282

Species, subspecies and named hybrids new for the month (including October Count): 7

**Total for the year 2012: 289**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

#### **Statisticians' Note Regarding Storm-Petrel Species:**

We received detailed reports from Pawlicki and Mitchell of a bird they observed as part of the Superstorm Sandy passage that was clearly a Storm-Petrel and is tentatively accepted as 'Storm-Petrel species'. We are continuing our review of the reports by seeking additional input from others that are more familiar with brief observations of flying Storm-Petrels. The Statisticians may still decide to accept these reports as identified to a species rather than "Storm-Petrel species" and we anticipate that such decision will be made in time to allow inclusion and/or a future note in the addenda for 2012.

#### **Statisticians' Note Regarding Hybrid Gull reports:**

We received a verification report from Watson and photographs from Pawlicki of an apparent hybrid gull that most closely resembles a Glaucous x Great Black-backed Gull. These follow several reports and photographs by Pawlicki et al of possibly the same bird over the past few years. As per our current practice on hybrid reports we are including these following the noteworthy records and without our 'accepting' or 'not accepting' the merits of a specific identification.

<u>Glaucous x Gr. Bl-back Gull</u>	5,13, 15	1	Sunset Bay	Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki et al



**Additional photographs of the Mourning Warbler documented by Dean DiTommaso at Woodlawn Beach State Park on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.**



# Report of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 14, 2012

Compiler: Marcie Jacklin

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

Weather early on the count day was quite blustery following passage of a warm front northward through the count area. Gusty winds from the south and light rain gave way midday to partly sunny skies, steady temperatures in the low to mid sixties and light winds from the south. Gusty winds from the south, cloudy skies, and rain returned by late afternoon as temperatures rose to the low to mid seventies. Gusty winds from the south and steady temperatures in the mid to upper sixties extended well into the evening.

## Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:28 AM EDT

Sunset: 6:34 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Light Rain	55°F	45°F	29.95	SW 21 G30	
3:00 am	Light Rain	55	51	29.89	S 15	Passage of warm front
6:00 am	Light Rain	60	56	29.89	SW 9	Passage of warm front
9:00 am	Light Rain	61	56	29.91	S 10	
Noon	Cloudy	66	57	29.89	S 15	
3:00 pm	Cloudy	74	58	29.77	S 21 G 26	
6:00 pm	Cloudy	73	54	29.70	S 16 G 26	
9:00 pm	Light Rain	66	58	29.67	SW 6	
Midnight	Partly Cloudy	69	55	29.56	S 13 G 22	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## GEESSE – HERONS

Greater White-fronted Goose	2	(4)	Black Scoter	<b>F</b>	23	(7,8)
Snow Goose	5	(5,13)	Long-tailed Duck		14	(3)
Cackling Goose	5	(4)	Bufflehead	<b>F</b>	31	(7,8)
Canada Goose	23931		Hooded Merganser		27	
Mute Swan	76		Common Merganser		637	
Wood Duck	523		Red-breasted Merganser		91	
Gadwall	98		unspecified mergansers		4	(7)
American Wigeon	772		Ruddy Duck		548	
American Black Duck	194		unspecified waterfowl		103	(3,7,9)
Mallard	2871		Ring-necked Pheasant		22	
Am. Black x Mallard	1	(12)	Ruffed Grouse		14	
Blue-winged Teal	21		Wild Turkey		178	
Northern Shoveler	124		Red-throated Loon		6	(3,4)
Northern Pintail	31		Common Loon		106	(3,4,5)
Green-winged Teal	766		Pied-billed Grebe		195	
Redhead	107		Horned Grebe		61	
Ring-necked Duck	254		Red-necked Grebe		4	(3,4)
Greater Scaup	809		Double-crested Cormorant		2072	
Lesser Scaup	122		Great Blue Heron		202	
unspecified scaup	842	(2,4,7)	Great Egret		33	(5,10)
Surf Scoter	37	(3,4,8)	Green Heron	<b>L</b>	1	(8)
White-winged Scoter	18		Black-crowned Night-Heron		1	(7)

## VULTURES - COOTS

Black Vulture	2	(3)	Cooper's Hawk	21	
Turkey Vulture	669		Northern Goshawk	1	(13)
Bald Eagle	27		Red-shouldered Hawk	1	(20)
Northern Harrier	19		Red-tailed Hawk	205	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19		Common Gallinule	L 2	(10)
unspecified accipiters	1	(20)	American Coot	1489	

## PLOVERS - TERNS

American Golden-Plover	L 7	(3)	Wilson's Snipe	22	
Killdeer	629		American Woodcock	1	(24)
Solitary Sandpiper	L 1	(15)	Bonaparte's Gull	105	
Greater Yellowlegs	39		Ring-billed Gull	13046	
Lesser Yellowlegs	24		Herring Gull	1116	
Sanderling	18	(7)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	(4)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	(7,13,23)	Great Black-backed Gull	24	
Least Sandpiper	3	(23)	unspecified gulls	235	(3,7,8)
Pectoral Sandpiper	9		Caspian Tern	L 2	(6)
Dunlin	26	(7,10)	Common Tern	3	(11)

## PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon	2473		unspecified woodpecker	1	(20)
Mourning Dove	1694		American Kestrel	43	
Eastern Screech-Owl	13		Merlin	3	(4,7,8)
Great Horned Owl	3	(13,20,28)	Peregrine Falcon	4	
Barred Owl	5		Eastern Phoebe	39	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	(15)	Flycatcher species	1	(2)
Chimney Swift	L 26	(8,11)	Blue-headed Vireo	4	(10,11,18)
Belted Kingfisher	41		<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>	L 1	(12)
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	(5,11)	Blue Jay	1137	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	162		American Crow	3199	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	22		Common Raven	37	
Downy Woodpecker	234		Horned Lark	210	
Hairy Woodpecker	68		Tree Swallow	275	
Northern Flicker	95		N. Rough-winged Swallow	94	
Pileated Woodpecker	15		Swallow species	76	(2,10)

## TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1164		Swainson's Thrush	10	
Tufted Titmouse	129		Hermit Thrush	80	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	135		Wood Thrush	1	(2)
White-breasted Nuthatch	174		American Robin	3123	
Brown Creeper	56		Gray Catbird	16	
House Wren	5		Northern Mockingbird	31	
Winter Wren	16		Brown Thrasher	2	(5,7)
Carolina Wren	27		European Starling	36685	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	402		American Pipit	339	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	272		Cedar Waxwing	752	
Eastern Bluebird	561				

## WARBLERS - HOUSE SPARROWS

Lapland Longspur	F	2	(3)	Swamp Sparrow		59	
Snow Bunting	F	40	(2)	White-throated Sparrow		764	
Northern Waterthrush	L	1	(11)	White-crowned Sparrow		423	
Orange-crowned Warbler		2	(12,24)	Dark-eyed Junco		1063	
Nashville Warbler	L	2	(3,9)	unspecified sparrows		44	
Common Yellowthroat		5	(5,20,26)	Northern Cardinal		467	
Cape May Warbler	L	1	(4)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	L	2	(7,9)
Blackpoll Warbler		4	(2,8,9)	Red-winged Blackbird		13919	
Black-throated Blue Warbler		1	(12)	Eastern Meadowlark		11	
Palm Warbler		8		meadowlark species		2	(2)
Pine Warbler		1	(11)	Rusty Blackbird		1924	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		759		Common Grackle		4172	
unspecified warblers		4	(3,5,7)	Brown-headed Cowbird		1234	
Eastern Towhee		15		unspecified blackbirds		2035	
American Tree Sparrow	F	11	(10,14,18)	Purple Finch		61	
Chipping Sparrow		359		House Finch		296	
Field Sparrow		91		Pine Siskin		61	
Vesper Sparrow	L	2	(7)	American Goldfinch		815	
Savannah Sparrow		15		* Evening Grosbeak	F	2	(27)
Fox Sparrow		10		House Sparrow		1394	
Song Sparrow		360		unspecified birds		232	(10,17)
Lincoln's Sparrow		8					

**Summary Information –** Total Species Observed ..... **155**  
Total Individual Birds Observed . . **138,326**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Marcie Jacklin, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 75 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2010 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

### RECORDS:

**First count record:** None

**Second count record:** Greater White-fronted Goose 2; Black Vulture 2;

**Third count record:** None

**First decade record:** Northern Waterthrush 1;

**Second decade record:** Greater White-fronted Goose 2; Black Vulture 2; Snow Bunting 40;

**Third decade record:** Northern Goshawk 1; Caspian Tern 2; Evening Grosbeak 2;

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Cackling Goose, 5 (29.6x); Mute Swan, 76 (10.9x); Wood Duck, 523 (2.5x); Gadwall (4.9x); Green-winged Teal, 766 (7.2x); Common Merganser, 637 (10.1x); Black Vulture, 2 (51.3x); Turkey Vulture, 669 (5.8x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (8.6x) tie; Common Raven, 37 (7.4x); Eastern Bluebird, 561 (3.2x); Snow Bunting, 40 (40x); Northern Cardinal, 467 (2.5). *Total of 13.*

**Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** None.

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2003:

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Cackling Goose, 5 (5x); Mute Swan, 76 (2x); Wood Duck, 523 (1.5x); Gadwall, 98 (2.2x); American Wigeon, 772 (3x); American Black Duck, 194 (2.1x); Green-winged Teal, 766 (3.1x); Redhead, 107 (4.9x); Bufflehead, 31 (3.1x); Common Merganser, 637 (2.3x); Ring-necked Pasant, 22 (1.5x); Black Vulture, 2 (6.7x); Turkey Vulture, 669 (1.5x); Northern Goshawk, 1 (3.3x); American Coot, 1489, (2.4x); Rock Pigeon, 2473 (1.2x); Peregrine Falcon, 4 (2x); Philadelphia Vireo, 1 (2.5x) tie; Common Raven, 37 (1.5x); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 135 (1.6x); Eastern Bluebird, 561 (1.6x); European Starling, 36685 (1.2x); Snow Bunting, 40 (10x); Northern Waterthrush, 1 (10x); Northern Cardinal, 467 (1.3x); Rusty Blackbird, 1924 (2.7x). *Total of 26.*



**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Green Heron, 1 (25%) tie; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1 (16.7%); Osprey, 0; Red-Shouldered Hawk, 1 (20%); American Woodcock, 1 (12.5%); Downy Woodpecker, 234 (79.1%); Pileated Woodpecker, 15 (65.2%) tie; Blue-headed Vireo, 4 (36.4%) tie; Red-eyed Vireo, 0; Blue Jay, 1137 (72.4%); White-breasted Nuthatch, 174 (62.8%); Gray Catbird, 16 (33.3%); Nashville Warbler, 2 (25%); Black-throated Green Warbler, 0; Eastern Towhee, 15 (39.5%); Song Sparrow, 360 (48.4%); Swamp Sparrow, 59 (48.8%); White-throated Sparrow, 764 (44.6%); Eastern Meadowlark, 11 (18.6%); American Goldfinch, 815 (64.8%). *Total of 20.*

#### SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 2003-2012:

This report continues a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species whose population totals are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

**INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the multiple by which the decade averages have increased except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Canada Goose, 3.2x; Mute Swan, (375/0); Gadwall, 4.5x; Mallard, 2x; Northern Shoveler, 23x; Ring-necked Duck, 9.2x; Hooded Merganser, 4.4x; Common Merganser, 14.5x; Red-breasted Merganser 7.4x; Ruddy Duck, 12.6x; Wild Turkey 5.1x; Common Loon, 34.7x; Red-necked Grebe, 13x; Double-crested Cormorant, 2842.3x; Great Blue Heron 1.5x; Great Egret, (203/0); Turkey Vulture, 14.6x; Bald Eagle, 59.7x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2.9x; Cooper's Hawk, 3x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Ring-billed Gull, 1.8x; Lesser Black-backed Gull, (20/0); Rock Pigeon, 2.1x; Mourning Dove 5.5x; Eastern Screech Owl, 2x; Barred Owl, 2.4x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 34.2x; Pileated Woodpecker, 3.3x; Merlin, 20.5x; Peregrine Falcon, 23x; American Crow, 1.4x; Common Raven, (244/0); Tufted Titmouse, 13.9x; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2.1x; Carolina Wren, 5.6x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.3x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.7x; Pine Warbler 18x; Northern Cardinal, 1.5x; House Finch, 222.3x. *Total =41 species; Observers, 1.2x.*

**DECREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the percentage to which the averages have decreased to except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

American Wigeon, 30%; American Black Duck, 23%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 11%; Ruffed Grouse, 30%; Red-shouldered Hawk, 59%; Broad-winged Hawk, 14%; Common Gallinule, 10%; Sanderling, 33%; Dunlin, 24%; Wilson's Snipe, 32%; American Woodcock, 19%; Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Belted Kingfisher, 59%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 13%; American Kestrel 54%; House Wren, 43%; Swainson's Thrush, 38%; Wood Thrush, 41%; American Robin, 52%; Brown Thrasher, 17%; Black-and-white Warbler, 15%; American Redstart, 19%; Cape May Warbler, 9%; Magnolia Warbler, 9%; Blackburnian Warbler, 3%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 9%; Palm Warbler, 41%; Wilson's Warbler, 2%; Eastern Towhee, 29%; Field Sparrow, 32%; Vesper Sparrow, 2%; Savannah Sparrow, 29%; Song Sparrow, 43%; Dark-eyed Junco, 47%; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 19%; Red-winged Blackbird, 47%; Eastern Meadowlark, 11%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 52%; American Goldfinch, 53%; House Sparrow, 39%. *Total =40 species*

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Julie Tedesco
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Carol Horvat, Kayo Roy, John Stevens
3. Wilson, NY: **Willie D'Anna**, Dean DiTommaso, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Anita Wierzba
4. Middleport, NY: Corey Callaghan, Brian Morse, Brooke Morse, Jim Pawlicki, Holly Sweeny, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Morgan Jones, Celeste Morien, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**
7. Lowbanks, ON: Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Joe Fell**, Tom Kerr, Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells
8. Fort Erie, ON: Peter BonEnfant, Lynda Goodridge, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Karen Lewis, Debbie Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Frank Voelker

10. Akron, NY: Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **David Gordon**, David Welte, John Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
11. Buffalo, NY: Nancy Bompczyk, Peter Corrigan, Teresa Corrigan, Ann Fournier, **Chuck Rosenberg**, Richard Salembier, Janine Shepherd
12. Lancaster, NY: Joe Carlo, Greg Coniglio, Melissa Coniglio, Kurt Fox, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, **Mike Morgante**
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Lisa Bartlett, Amanda Coughlin, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, Julie Garver, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Bill Kistner, Jodi Laird, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Jane Schneider, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrie, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan
15. Java, NY: Nancy Bompczyk, Diane Evans, Carolyn Forrester, David Junkin, Sandy Junkin, **Ed Ratajczak**, Sally Uzunov
16. Angola, NY: Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, George Phillips, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Joe Mitchell**, Nathan Mitchell, Bert Schweigert
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Sean Phelan
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: William Baker, Ann Beebe, Allen Benton, Nancy Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Raymond Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Joseph Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Terry Mosher, Robert Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jim Berry, Linda O'Brien, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vanstrom
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ruth Lundin, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike Candows, Pat Coate, Mike DeSha, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jim Pomeroy, Jeff Reed, Jim Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, David Cross, Denton Willett
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Sandy Arthur, Jackie Merrick, Everly Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Wilma Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Betsy Brooks, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Luann Cornell, Peter Finaly, Peter Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Barbara Kubiak, Kathleen McDonald, Ralph Peterson, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipal, Ken Reichman, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzhe, Lynn Rositzhe, Nancy Rouse, Megan Staffel, Tara Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells

**Total Number of Observers: 188**



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## January - February Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

### Bird Hotline Instructions

Dial 1-877-698-3261 (if busy 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335)

- 1) At the prompt, enter the # key then Enter Group ID & pin numbers 144238 1756
- 2) Press 1 to send a message
- 3) Press # as you will not need a response
- 4) Record your message - you have 45 seconds  
Press # to end the recording
- 5) Listen to your message if satisfied  
Press 1 to accept, if not press 2 to re-record.
- 6) Press # to send your message
- 7) Enter sub group number 02 not 00
- 8) At prompt press #.
- 9) again at prompt Press #; wait to hear your message sent confirmation



Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h. oreganus*) observed and photographed by Jim and Karen Landau in Colden, NY on October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jan. 9: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Marcia Jacklin will report on the results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, and Dr. Robert DeLeon will report on the results of the May Count.

**Jan. 20: Sunday January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is from Jan. 19-27, however counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 20 if possible. Contact the compiler for additional information: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)

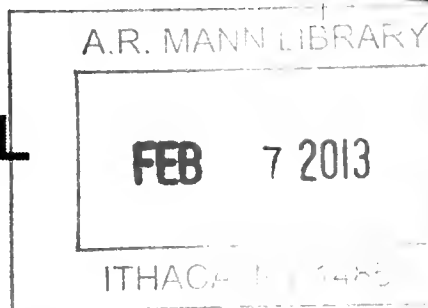
**Feb. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, will discuss: "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

**Mar. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** David Gordon will report on the results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Bird Count.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 78, No. 12 December 2012

### THE MONTH: November *Gerry Rising*

This was one of the strangest months for weather I can recall. We began following the threat of Hurricane Sandy, a storm that created exciting conditions for birding but whose severity thankfully pooped out before it passed though mildly on October 31. Temperatures bounced up and down to extremes. And we again had little snow.

Consider the details from information provided by the Buffalo National Forecast Office's David Thomas, who summarized the month as "quiet, cool and dry." Temperature mean (F): 39.3 (-1.4° from average); that mean temperature hiding wide swings within the month: first 9 days 8° below normal with winds out of the northwest; next three well above, rising to 70° on the 11th and 12th (20 year highs) as a warm front passed; the high down to 41° on the 13th; followed by a slow rise into the 50s, achieving 58° on the 22nd; from the 24th back down to the 30s. Meanwhile precipitation (inches): 1.05 (-2.96); snowfall 2.4 (-5.5). It snowed on the 25th (1.6), 28th (0.2) and 30th (0.6) but brief flurries were noted on six days going as far back as the 2nd. Winds had northerly components only during November 2-5, 7-8, 14, 18 and 30, with average velocity over 15 mph only on the 12th, 23rd and 24th.

For birders the most excitement was early in the month. What would the hurricane bring us? You will see in the following brief review of the entire month that it did bring gifts.

Waterfowl: The highlights were the single Ross's Goose on the 24th in Welland and Harlequin Ducks on the 12th in Wilson and the 24th in Port Weller. There was a significant flight of Brant on the 1st. Red-throated Loon numbers peaked on the 15th when 291 were reported from Wilson. I can recall twenty years ago feeling fortunate when we found one of these birds. Have their numbers increased both in totals and in proportion to Common Loons or is this increase simply a function of

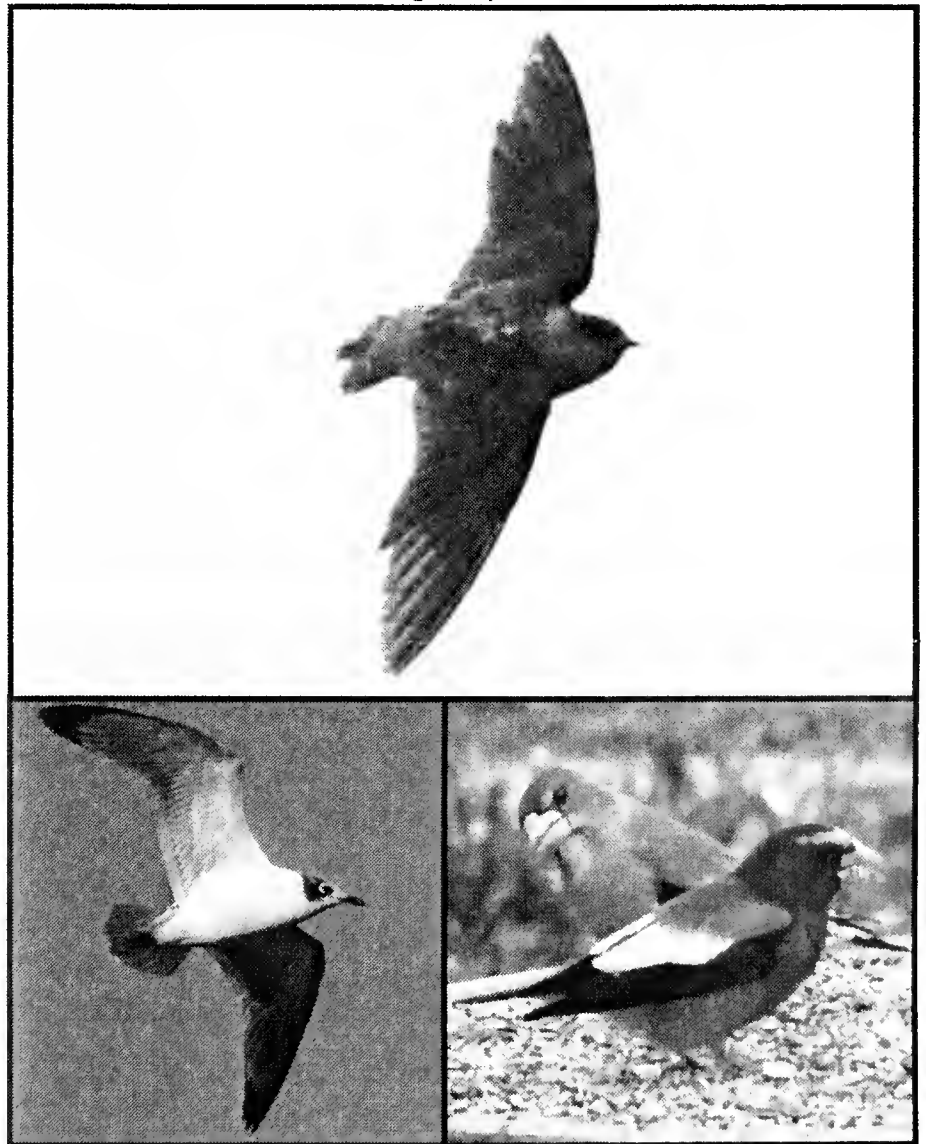
- |     |                                          |                      |
|-----|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 121 | <b>The Month</b>                         | more people          |
|     | <i>Gerry Rising</i>                      | looking for them     |
| 123 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>                | with better ID       |
|     | <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i> | skills? These are, I |
| 128 | <b>Calendar</b>                          | think, questions     |
| 128 | <b>BOS-RBA Gull Field Trip</b>           | worth considering.   |
|     | <i>Bill Watson &amp; Tom O'Donnell</i>   | Coots maxed at       |
|     |                                          | 720 on the 18th at   |

Mayville.

Raptors: Best birds were clearly the individual Golden Eagles seen on the 1st (Buffalo Harbor, see below) and 11th (Fort Niagara). Black Vulture numbers increased to six in Lewiston on the 20th.

Marsh and Shorebirds: Despite the cold a few shorebirds lingered late in the month: Killdeer and Dunlin observed on the 29th, snipe on the 27th and woodcock on the 20th.

Gulls, Terns and Pelagics (here we see evident



(Top) Cave Swallow photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Woodlawn Beach State Park on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, (Left) Franklin's Gull photographed by Andy Guthrie at Niagara Power Project on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and (Right) Evening Grosbeaks photographed by Bob Dadswell in Darien on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

**Publishing:** Audrey Horbett

**Editorial Consultants:** Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

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effects of Hurricane Sandy): 10 Black-legged Kittiwakes, a Sabine's Gull, a Black-headed Gull, a Parasitic Jaeger and even a Ross's Gull at Fort Erie on the 1st (Wow!), a few of the kittiwakes seen later in the month. Also on the 1st: 2 Little Gulls at Woodlawn Beach, a Forster's Tern at Rich Marine, 6 Pomarine Jaegers at the Buffalo Outer Harbor and 5 at Erie Beach. Except for a few Black-headed Gull reports and a Common Tern at Beaver Island on the 11th, the remainder of the month was more normal.

**Passerines:** A single Cave Swallow appeared at Woodlawn Beach on the 1st and 2nd and one or two flew past Erie Basin Marina on the 8th (another effect of Sandy?). A few Bohemian Waxwings were noted, the maximum nine on the 9th at

Four Mile Creek SP. A single Lapland Longspur was recorded in Orangeville on the 17th.

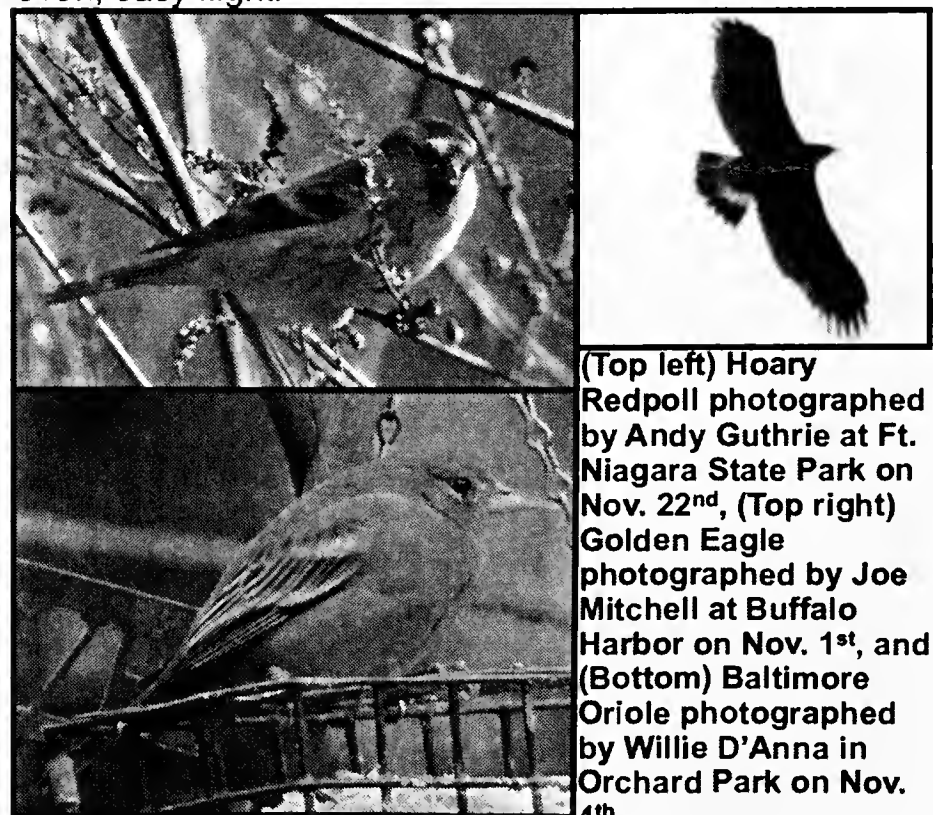
Four warbler species were seen: Orange-crowned on the 4th at Morgan's Point, two Yellow-rumps on the 6th in Amherst SP, a Wilson's on the 21st and 22nd in Fort Niagara SP, and a Common Yellowthroat on the 22nd at Sinking Ponds. An Oregon Junco subspecies was recorded in Colden through most of the month.

And as predicted by Ron Pittaway and other Canadians, this is indeed a winter finch year. Evening Grosbeaks showing up again after a virtual absence for more than a decade, the maximum 13 at Ashford on the 3rd. Maximums for other incursives: Red Crossbill 22 on the 17th in Wilson, White-winged Crossbill 100 on the 4th at Morgan's Point, Common Redpoll 35 on the 11th in Wilson, and 25 Pine Siskins on the 11th in Newfane. A single Hoary Redpoll was at Fort Niagara on the 22nd. And a single Pine Grosbeak appeared on the 17th in Wilson with two the next day in Wilson-Tuscarora SP.

Those 22 Red Crossbills were identified by type (3 and 10, aka Douglas-fir Crossbill and Sitka Spruce Crossbill). Because reds are so uncommon here, few local birders are prepared to join in the challenging identification of the (so far) ten types, mostly by their call notes but to a lesser extent by bill size. According to

Willie D'Anna here is the process he followed in his identification: "I recorded the Red Crossbills with my small digital camera, using the video mode. I then created a YouTube account and gave the link to Matthew Young, a finch expert. Matt identified the bird calls in my video as belonging to Types 3 and 10, estimating five Type 3's and 17 Type 10s (based on my count of 22 total Red Crossbills)." See [ebird.org/content/ebird/news/red-crossbill-types](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/red-crossbill-types). We already have two species only separated by song: Willow and Alder Flycatcher. Banders cannot distinguish them and have to refer to both as Traill's Flycatchers. If the Red Crossbills are finally split, we may end up with more complex and often unsolvable problems of field identification.

From the series of excellent verification reports, I offer Joe Mitchell's (slightly edited) November 1 description and similar species sections as a model for such reports: "I was standing in the tower at Erie Basin Marina watching the harbor for any rarities left in the wake of Hurricane Sandy when I saw an eagle approaching from the west. The bird had likely crossed from the Fort Erie shore. The large size and long, broad wings identified it as an eagle. I initially thought it was a Bald Eagle given that it was flying over the harbor but it was a Golden Eagle based on the white subterminal band on the tail. As the bird approached I was able to see a whole suite of features to confirm the ID. As it soared, it held its wings slightly forward. The appearance of the "bulging" secondaries was very evident in this full soar. A smaller head and longish tail (relative to the head) rounded out the structural features. Overall, the bird appeared all dark. A faint line of white was apparent on the underwing, along the base of the flight feathers where they meet the underwing coverts. The most obvious feature of the plumage was the bright white subterminal band on the tail that identifies this bird as a juvenile. Size and structure eliminate all other raptors except juvenile Bald Eagle and Turkey Vulture. A Red-tailed Hawk was also in the air at the time and showed the obviously larger size of the eagle. The lack of any white in the underwing coverts or body feathers rules out juvenile Bald Eagle. The lack of the silvery undersurface of the flight feathers rules out Turkey Vulture. Additionally, in such strong winds, a Turkey Vulture would not have shown such an even, easy flight."



(Top left) Hoary Redpoll photographed by Andy Guthrie at Ft. Niagara State Park on Nov. 22nd, (Top right) Golden Eagle photographed by Joe Mitchell at Buffalo Harbor on Nov. 1st, and (Bottom) Baltimore Oriole photographed by Willie D'Anna in Orchard Park on Nov. 4th.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	2	1	Beaver Meadow Aud.	L. Smith
"	6	6	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	22	10	Pt. Breeze	Callaghan
"	23	1	Oakfield	Callaghan
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	24	1	Welland (Ont)	Moss
Brant	1	36	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden, Black et al
"	1	50	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
"	1	40; 20	Buffalo	Watson; Mitchell
"	1 - 11	2 - 6	BOS study area	5 other records
Cackling Goose	3, 4	1, 8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
"	5	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	10; 21	7; 6	Oakfield	Watson; Callaghan
"	23	9	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	24	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	29	1	Stockton	J&K Landau
Mute Swan	9; 18	2; 2	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon; Watson et al
"	9	2	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	16	5	Lewiston	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	8	Pt. Breeze	Callaghan
Tundra Swan	2F	17	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	9, 14	10, 59	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk, Sharon
"	13	109	Bear Lake, Stockton	Mosher
"	13	73	Mayville	Leenders
"	16; 25	26; 35	Niagara Falls	Watson; D'Anna
"	18	3	Barre	Morien
"	29	45	Niagara River	Mitchell
Wood Duck	1	6	Shelby	Morien
"	3	4	Reinstein Woods NP	Salembier
Gadwall	3, 16	114, 79	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	4	87	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	14	38	Tift NP	Watson
"	27	34	Mayville	Watson, Pawlicki
American Wigeon	2; 3	79; 182	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
American Black Duck	11	15	Tift NP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	3, 16	78, 44	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	9	20	Alexander	Dart
"	10	13	Tift NP	Watson
Northern Pintail	2; 3	103; 6	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	2	17	Woodlawn Beach SP	Mitchell
"	11	13	Point Abino (Ont)	Jacklin et al
Green-winged Teal	3; 22	35; 131	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watkins
"	9	100	Alexander	Dart
Canvasback	1	1	S. Dayton	Simmons
"	16	27	Niagara Falls	Watson
Redhead	1	2	S. Dayton	Simmons
"	8	32	Niagara Falls	Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	6	Findley Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	2, 10	900, 386	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	16	92	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Greater Scaup	8	410	Niagara Falls	Watson
Lesser Scaup	8	20	Niagara Falls	Watson
Harlequin Duck	12F	1 m	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Ahara, B&J Farnan
Surf Scoter	1	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	3	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	9	2	Olcott	Sharon
White-winged Scoter	1	400	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	3	440	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Scoter	1	50	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	3, 15	18, 1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4	2	Buffalo Harbor	Carlson
"	17; 19	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Goetz
Long-tailed Duck	1	61	Buffalo Harbor	Mitchell
Bufflehead	1	120	Buffalo	Watson
"	16	630	Beaver I. SP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	24	250	Niagara Falls	Sly
Hooded Merganser	9	50	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	10	87	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	16	169	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	69	Findley Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Merganser	10	72	Oakfield	Watson
"	18	74	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Red-breasted Merganser	15	1855	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	500	Hamburg Town Park	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1	200	S. Dayton	Simmons
"	1, 3	160, 41	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	2	77	Attica Reservoir	Fox
"	10; 14	210; 224	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	13	110	Mayville	Leenders
"	14	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	27	42	Findley Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-throated Loon	1	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	15, 17	261, 96	Wilson	D'Anna
"	16; 18	48; 3	Fort Niagara SP	Watson; Yoerg et al
"	16	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Watson
"	29	1	Rotary Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
Common Loon	1	45	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
Pied-billed Grebe	1	20	S. Dayton	Simmons
"	18	22	Mayville	Leenders
Red-necked Grebe	4	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4	2	South Dayton	Goetz
"	16	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Eared Grebe	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Double-crest. Cormorant	1	600; 400	Donnelly's Pier, Bflo.	Mitchell; Watson
"	24	236	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
American Bittern	2L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Great Egret	1L	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Cattle Egret	1; 2	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al; Hess et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Ziemba
"	24	1	Tift NP	Ryan
Black Vulture	11; 16; 20	1; 4; 6	Lewiston	Morgante; Pawlicki; Landaus
Turkey Vulture	6	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	11	30	Lewiston	Morgante
Bald Eagle	2	4	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	23	9	Evans to Barcelona	Pawlicki et al
"	2 - 30	1 - 3	BOS study area	24 other records

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1	Orchard Park	Fell
Rough-legged Hawk	1F	1 light	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	3	1	Shelby	Morien
"	11	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Chautauqua Twp.	Mosher
"	27	2	Sherman	Pawlicki, Watson
Golden Eagle	<u>1</u>	1	Buffalo Harbor	Mitchell
"	<u>11</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante
Sora	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
American Coot	11; 18	400; 720	Mayville	Goetz; Leenders
"	24	196	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Killdeer	27	6	Findley Lake	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	2	Birdsong Parklands	Hauser
Greater Yellowlegs	5L	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
Dunlin	8	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Potter et al
Wilson's Snipe	27L	4	Findley Lake	Pawlicki, Watson
American Woodcock	17	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	20	1	Grand Island	Humann
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	<u>10</u> juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	1	3 juv	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
"	1	1 juv	Woodlawn Beach SP	Mitchell, Watson
"	8; 29	1; 1 juv	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Salembier; Pawlicki
"	23	1 juv	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
Sabine's Gull	1	1-2 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
Bonaparte's Gull	23	12750	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
Black-headed Gull	1	1 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	M Burrell et al
"	2; 8	1; 1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Pawlicki; Salembier
"	11	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
"	18	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Potter et al
Little Gull	1	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki, Callaghan
"	4; 29	1; 1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Watson; Pawlicki
"	5; 16	1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki; Watson
"	7	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	17	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Ziemba
"	23	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
* <u>Ross's Gull</u>	1	1 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
Franklin's Gull	7-25	1	Robert Moses Hydro	Pawlicki, many observers
Iceland Gull	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson et al (RBA)
"	18	1	Barcelona Harbor	Leenders
"	19	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	20	2	Niagara River	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	25	8	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	26	4	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-backed Gull	16	1 (3rd winter)	Robt. Moses Hydro	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16; 26	2 ad; 15	Goat I.	Watson et al; Pawlicki
"	18; 24	6; 12	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson et al; J,M&K Burrell
"	25	8	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	25	6	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	25	1	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al
Common Tern	11	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Forster's Tern	1	1	Rich Marine, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	2L	1	Iroquois NWR	Wasilco
* <u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	1; 1	6; 1	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Morse; Mitchell
"	1	5 juv	Erie Beach (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Parasitic Jaeger	1	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
Jaeger sp.	1	1	Buffalo	Watson, Mitchell
"	23	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
Short-eared Owl	25	2	Shelby	Morien
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	1	Wilson	Potter et al
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	1	Chestnut Ridge CP	Coleman

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Merlin	3	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Ziemba
"	10	1 ad fem	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Holden et al
"	2	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Mitchell
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	4	1	Fredonia	Ziemba
"	8	1	Tonawanda	Salembier
"	18	1	Fort Niagara SP	Spahn
Eastern Phoebe	2, 6	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Shrike	3	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	1	Wilson	Sharon
"	11	1	Lyndonville	Morien
"	11	1	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	20, 26	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Common Raven	7, 17	3, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	8, 16	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Watson
"	9	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	19	1	Ward	Brooks
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	7; 22	1; 4	Goat I. SP	Pawlicki; Guthrie
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1; 2	1; 1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki et al; Mitchell
"	8	1-2	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki
Winter Wren	1	2	Reinstein Woods NP	Salembier
"	2	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
"	17	4	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Gray Catbird	4	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	6	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	8, 16	1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11	1	Albion	Morien
"	14	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	20	1	Alexander	Dart
"	29	1	Bethany	Beattie
American Pipit	3	7	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	10	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	21	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	22	5	Wilson	Guthrie
Bohemian Waxwing	8F; 10; 11	2; 6; 2	Newfane	Potter, D'Anna; Callaghan
"	9; 20	9; 2	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki; Mitchell, Pawlicki
Lapland Longspur	17	1	Orangeville	Fox
Snow Bunting	6	50	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	9	60	Wilson	Sharon
"	9	8	Alexander	Dart
"	11	100; 120	Golden Hill SP	Morien; Ewald et al
Orange-crowned Warbler	4L	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Common Yellowthroat	22	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	2	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
Wilson's Warbler	21; 22	1	Fort Niagara SP	Kerr; D'Anna, Potter, Guthrie
Chipping Sparrow	3	5	Bethany	Beattie
Fox Sparrow	1	1	Fredonia	Goetz
"	3, 7	4, 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	4	6	Carlton Hill MUA	Beattie
"	4	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	4, 6, 7	1, 3, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5	1	Bethany	Beattie
Swamp Sparrow	21	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	1	Squaw I.	Mitchell
White-throated Sparrow	1 - 12	1 leucistic	Williamsville	Salembier
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	1 - 25	1	Colden	J&K Landau



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-winged Blackbird	4	500	Middlebury	Beattie
Eastern Meadowlark	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Wasilco
Rusty Blackbird	3	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Baltimore Oriole	4	1	Orchard Park	D'Anna et al
* Pine Grosbeak	17F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Purple Finch	14 - 24	2-4	Williamsville	Salembier
Red Crossbill	14F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	17	22 (type3&10)	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	21	2	Alexander	Fox
White-winged Crossbill	2	16	Lancaster	Morgante
"	4	100	Morgan's Point (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	9; 18	14; 25	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki; Watson et al (BOS)
"	10	6	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Salembier
"	12	13	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	6	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	1-30	1-5	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Common Redpoll	9; 18; 20	10; 18; 50	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki; Yoerg; Mitchell
"	10	25	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	11	12	Point Breeze	Morien, Potter
"	11; 15	35; 10	Wilson	Morgante; D'Anna, Potter
"	10 - 20	1 - 6	Throughout WNY	6 other records
* <u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	22	1	Fort Niagara SP	Guthrie
Pine Siskin	10	9	Shelby	Morien
"	11	25	Newfane	Morse
"	17	10	Fredonia	Goetz
"	1 - 18	1 - 5	Throughout WNY	10 other records
Evening Grosbeak	1	4	Reinstein Woods NP	Rowan et al
"	2	12	Clarence	Mark Morgante
"	3	13	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	4	2	Chestnut Ridge CP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	3	Darien	B&L Dadswell
"	17	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	20	6	Beaver Meadow Aud.	L. Smith

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Lowly Barn - Crossed into Adul - Nov 1, 2012

1/2 points per circle

Longest pointed wings

seen at underside

darkened gray

underneath, dark about like 2nd instar - low not clearer

darkish

(when viewing opposite)

flight was strong & quick, very similar to low

low mostly out of view, much less out than low

(Left) Sketch and notes of a Ross's Gull observed at Waverly Beach, Ontario on November 1<sup>st</sup> (provided by Holden) and (Right) the Waverly Beach group watching for birds displaced by Hurricane Sandy (photographed by Holden).



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **February - May Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**  
**Bird Hotline 1-877-698-3261** (if busy 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335)

**Feb. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Chris Wood, eBird and Neotropical Birds Project Leader at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology presents "How and Why Birders Should Use Ebird."

**Mar. 3: Sun. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip.** Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on 6929 Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Please wear waterproof footwear and bring a 2-way radio, if they have one. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg ([cprosenb@roadrunner.com](mailto:cprosenb@roadrunner.com), cell phone: 622-3278).

**Mar. 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** David Gordon will present results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society CBC.

**Mar. 30: Sat. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport

**Apr. 10: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Timothy T. DePriest, New York State DEC Niagara River Habitat Specialist will discuss "Habitat Improvement of Motor Island and the Niagara River."

**May 15: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.**

## **BOS-RBA Gull Field Trip** *Bill Watson and Tom O'Donnell*

On November 18, 2012 members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and Rochester Birding association met at Fort Niagara State Park. The temperature was in the mid-thirties, and by early afternoon the temperature had risen to mid-fifties. Tom O'Donnell had arranged for free access to the Fort to observe birds near the mouth of the Niagara River. Razorbill were not found this year, but before we entered the park, two flocks of fifteen and ten White-winged Crossbills passed overhead, and several participants had scope views of them when they briefly landed in the trees. At the mouth of the river we found Common and Red-throated Loons, two merganser species, Long-tailed Duck, Mallard, Mute Swan, and three species of gulls. At Lewiston, we observed two Redheads, 17 Great Blue Herons, five American Black Ducks and Bonaparte's Gulls. Crossing the Niagara River to Sir Adam Beck on the Canadian side we found few gulls. We did manage to locate two adult "Kumlien's" Iceland Gulls and Greg Lawrence located a winter adult Franklin's Gull that had been reported a week earlier. Lunch was highlighted by wonderful and generously shared fudge-brownies made by Sue O'Donnell.

Moving to the whirlpool overlook, we totaled less than a handful of gulls, again, the fewest I have seen at this location and time of year. Above the falls the group split to park at either the conservatory or at Dufferin Island and then met above the engineering building to view birds in the area of the rapids. We overlapped there briefly with Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Ron Pittaway, and a group of birding friends. We had nice scope views of waterfowl and a 1<sup>st</sup> winter Lesser Black-backed Gull found by Willie. There were also 74 Hooded Mergansers, fourteen Gadwall, and six American Wigeons.

At this point it was obvious that birding was slow on this beautiful fall day and there were few birders on the River and nothing else special being reported, so some of us hiked up to view the birds on the break walls and islands below the control gates and others broke off to start home. At least 5 more adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were located, and thousands of scaup and other diving ducks were above the control gates.

It was a beautiful day to be out birding among good company, but the pleasantly warm November weather had not encouraged a large southward movement of gulls. Despite the lack of numerous gulls, the joint trip ended the day with a total 58 species, and most of the birders were able to see a large percentage of these.